

Washington County Historical Society

129 Jones Street, Sandersville, Georgia 31082

NEWSLETTER

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Festival Ramble draws crowd

The Sandersville Downtown Ramble, one of the Kaolin Festival events, was a big success attended by about 70 people. Martha Riner gave a welcome from the city and Charles Jordan from the Chamber and Downtown Development Committee.

Commenting on the unveiling of history around the square, William Rawlings, Lewis West, Susan Lewis and Mary Alice Jordan talked about the history of the buildings and the people who had occupied them.

Jo Cummings pointed out the architectural features of the buildings. The Ramble ended on a grand note at the Geo. D. Warthen Bank with a fine display of the history of the bank and delicious refreshments.

Museum open during Festival

The Museum was open on Kaolin Festival Parade day and there was a steady stream of people coming in.

Spud Bridges, Martha Riner and Charline Moore continue to research downtown businesses and homes. We appreciate their work and the special information they found for the Downtown Sandersville Ramble.

The Museum Committee welcomes two new hostesses: Carolyn Marchman and Peggy Phillips.

Meeting Moved to Monday, Nov. 4

The Society Board of Directors voted to move the October meeting date from October 28 to November 4 in order that our members may enjoy the Community Concert on that date. You are encouraged to enjoy the performance at the Sandersville Elementary auditorium on the 28th.

The Society will meet at the Washington EMC civic room on Monday, November 4 at 7:30 p.m.

Encampment at Brown House Nov. 23-24

Two days of "living history" will be reenacted at the Brown House with the camp open to the public 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, November 23-24.

Activities will include: tours of the camp ground and house, rapid fire contest, skillet toss, military life and medical demonstrations, craftsmen demonstrations, Sutlery shops and skirmishes between Union and Confederate soldiers in the afternoon.

Saturday evening the troops will march to the Old City Cemetery for a memorial service to honor northern and southern veterans buried there. This will begin at 5:30 p.m. and the public is invited.

Sunday there will be a church service at 9:15 a.m.

How to access genealogy research through Salt Lake City Library

Compiling your family history can be a challenge, depending on the available records. Sometimes it's as simple as knowing where to look. If you have tried to discover more about your ancestors, then you will want to attend the Washington County Historical Society meeting on Monday, November 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the civic room at Washington EMC.

Betsy Spikes Jennings will be presenting the program on the library of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Salt Lake, Utah. As most genealogists know, this Library is a wonderful resource for family information

Betsy's research and compilation of her family history was inspired by her grandmother sharing childhood memories and family legends.

That interest in genealogy has been complimented by her involvement as director of the Family History Center at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Milledgeville. The Center is a circulating branch of the Salt Lake City library..

As director of the Milledgeville History Center, it is Betsy's goal to encourage use of the center and all of the resources available.

Betsy is originally from L.A. (Lower Alabama). She is married to Tom Jennings and they have four sons. For the past sixteen years she has been a dance school owner and teacher with studios in Milledgeville and Eatonton.

This meeting is open to anyone who is interested in learning more about genealogy research.

Washington County Historical Society

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Brown House restoration awarded \$5,000 grant for electrical work

by Mary Alice Jordan, chairman

We have been notified that the Historical Society will receive a grant of \$5,000 for wiring of the Brown House from the Georgia Heritage 2000 Grants. (The approximate cost of re-wiring is \$9,000.)

The grant is administered by the Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources. Architect Michael Miller of this office has asked to oversee our project. He was one of the architects who came here with the Downtown Design Team.

On Saturday and Sunday, November 23-24, there will be a living history encampment at the Brown House, sponsored by the local Sons of Confederate Veterans. (Please see related story on front.)

Christmas Stroll set for Thursday, Dec. 12

The Christmas Stroll, sponsored by the Pilot Club of Washington County, will feature selected homes in Tennille on Thursday, December 12, 5-8 p.m.

One-half the proceeds will be given to the Brown House Restoration and one-half to the Depot Restoration in Tennille. Tickets are \$10 and may be obtained from Hometown Appliances, Perlings, Wilson Furniture and from Pilot Club members.

Washington County Historical Society Officers
President - Gwen Hall
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Secretary - Patricia Mathis
Treasurer - Katye McCoy
Directors - Martha Armstrong, Ramus Freeman, and Allen Hodges
Publicity/Newsletter - Brenda Hollingsworth
Brown House Chair - Mary Alice Jordan
Cemeteries Chair - Nancy Tarbutton
Genealogy Chair - Gene Brantley
Historic Sites and Districts - Jo Cummings
Oral History - Neale Traugh

Historic Sites & Districts Committee

by Jo Cummings, chairman

Jewell Turner has implemented an application for listing on the National Register for the unincorporated city of Warthen. A public hearing was held at the Community Center drawing a large turnout of property owners..

The application is now being reviewed by the State Review Board. If all goes well, placement should be in about a year.

Chamber of Commerce Choate Room project open weekdays

The Charles Edward Choate Memorial Room in the Chamber of Commerce building was open on parade day. Three school groups have visited with Jo Cummings coordinating their visits.

A worksheet has been prepared which can be used by visitors and students to enhance their awareness of architecture "signatures" of Choate.

A second worksheet on architecture in the downtown area was prepared for the Ramble. Copies are available in the Chamber office and the Museum.

An article on the Choate Room was printed in the Macon Telegraph and inspired relatives of Choate's first wife Elizabeth to come from Macon. They brought a family genealogy chart and pictures of Elizabeth and Mr. Choate. Copies have been added to the information on file there.

On Thursday, November 21, we will be hosting a club from Atlanta whose interests lie in architecture, interior design and gardens. In addition to tours of Choate structures, their day will include a program on kaolin at Thiele and a visit to an ECCI mine.

Attend the Historical Society Meeting Nov. 4