

# Washington County Historical Society

129 Jones Street, Sandersville, Georgia 31082

## NEWSLETTER

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Chartered 1976

## 'Immortal Captives' author to present program, April 22

Mauriel Joslyn has researched the story of 600 Confederate soldiers, prisoners of war, and their treatment during the last months of the War Between the States. Her book on the subject is called "Immortal Captives: The Story of 600 Confederate Officers and the United States Prisoner of War Policy."

She will be bringing copies of her book and presenting the program at the next meeting of the Society Monday, April 22 at 7:30 p.m. at the Washington EMC civic room.

This will be an opportunity to learn about a little told portion of that war which involved two men from Washington County. They were George W. Raughton and William Ransome Avant. Raughton was a First Lieutenant, 18th Company H, 49th Georgia Infantry Regiment who was captured in Wilderness, Virginia, on May 6, 1864. He was the son of Enoch Raughton who married Harriet Joice. They lived near Tabernacle Church.

Second Lieutenant Avant was in Company 1, 61st Georgia Infantry Regiment. He was captured at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on July 1, 1864. He was the son of John Freeman Avant and Nancy Snider Avant of Deepstep. His brother was Augustus Scott Avant, who also was from Deepstep.

In an article about the book in the *Sparta*

*Ishmaelite*, Mrs. Joslyn is quoted, "I contacted many descendants of members of the 600, and was fortunate to find a wealth of letters and diaries from the men themselves, as well as many photographs."

The article continues, "Mrs. Joslyn has been interested in the War Between the States since she was a child. 'I was fortunate to have been old enough to appreciate the Centennial celebrations in the 1960s. I fell in love with history and that has directed my life ever since.'"

Mrs. Joslyn is a native of Harris County now living with her husband Rick and two sons, Nick and Alex, in Sparta. They often participate in living history demonstrations.

She has written articles for Civil War magazines and is completing a book on a Savannah family who sent three sons to fight in the war. Another book soon to be released features ten stories on Southern women and the roles they played in the war.

"Immortal Captives" can be purchased at the meeting for \$29.95 plus tax. There is a separate paperback roster which contains a short biographical sketch on each of the 600 men. It sells for \$25 plus tax.

Everyone is invited to attend the meeting of the Historical Society Monday, April 22 at 7:30 p.m. at the EMC.

### From the Board of Directors....

President Larry Giles submitted his resignation in mid-January. Vice-President Glynn Robinson has been acting as president since then. At the April board meeting he agreed to move into the president slot and Gwen Hall accepted a move from director to vice-president.

The Nominating Committee is searching for a new director and will announce the name at the meeting April 22.

Nancy Tarbutton, chairman of the City Cemetery Committee announced that instead of the Cemetery Ramble as a part of the Kaolin Festival, it has been

suggested that a Downtown Ramble be an activity this year.

The Cemetery Committee will not participate in the Downtown Ramble, but Chamber Chairman Charles Jordan says he has several commitments for tour guides and will need addition help. Contact the Chamber office if you can help.

Copies of the "Historic Guide for Sandersville," brochure approved for re-order at the last Society meeting, are now at the Chamber of Commerce office and the Museum. They have also been approved for placement in Welcome Centers throughout the state.

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129 Jones Street, Post Office Box 6088  
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## The Brown House

Chairman Mary Alice Jordan reported work on the restoration is "on-hold" until additional funds are raised.

The committee has received plans for the plumbing and placing of the bathrooms from Historic Architect Lane Greene.

Mary Alice says they would welcome any donation, large or small, toward the restoration work.

## Books Available

There are only about 100 copies of "From Cotton to Kaolin," the history of Washington County. If you want one, they can be purchased at the Museum or at Karols. Price is \$47.50.

Also still available are the three books by the late Elizabeth Newsom. Priced at about \$25, they are:

The Tombstone Book

The Estate Papers

Washington County 1825 Tax Digest

## Washington County Historical Society Officers

President - Glynn Robinson

Vice-President - Gwen Hall

Secretary - Patricia Mathis

Treasurer - Katye McCoy

Directors - Martha Armstrong, Ramus Freeman, and Allen Hodges - one position open

Publicity/Newsletter - Brenda Hollingsworth

Brown House Chairman - Mary Alice Jordan

Cemetery Chairman - Nancy Tarbutton

Genealogy Chairman - Gene Brantley

Historic Sites/Districts - Jo Cummings

Museum Chairman - Mary Alice Jordan

## From the Genealogy Committee...

New on the shelves in the Genealogy Room at the Museum are:

- "The Hall Family History" donated by author Gwen Hall.

- The Kelly Family Bible record donated by Betty Mertz Jackson.

- "Georgia, 1832 Gold Lottery" and "Taliaferro County, Georgia" donated by Henrietta Wiles.

- "Washington County Newspaper Clippings", Vol. I, II, III, 1852-1889 by Tad Evans - purchased by Geanology Committee.

- Three rolls of *Sandersville Progress* microfilm donated by Bob Garrett.

Nonie Veal reports this committee is working on the 1828 Tax Digest for future publication.

## C.E. Choate room at Chamber

The Chamber of Commerce has formed a committee to assemble a museum type exhibit on architect Charles Edward Choate. Fourteen of his structures in Washington County have been identified with most of them on the National Register of Historic Places.

Jo Cummings and Brenda Hollingsworth are working on this with other citizens. Application has been made for a \$10,000 matching grant to pay for a video and brochures.

Sandersville native and talented artist Sterling Everett has agreed to paint pictures of the fourteen buildings for the room. Displays will include some items believed to have belonged to Choate and his family.

Plans are to open the Choate Room across the hall from the Chamber office about July 1, in time for Olympic visitors. Watch for the grand opening announcement.