

# Washington County Historical Society

129 Jones Street, Sandersville, Georgia 31082

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 9 - Number 1

January 1997

Chartered 1976

### President's Message...

I'd like to urge both involved and laid-back members to make the 1997 Historical Society alphabet begin with *ACTION!*

For our meetings, we have great programs on tap through Ray Hollingsworth, our program chairman. Some good workers have become officers, or directors. Our committees have enthusiastic chairmen. Heritage opportunities await us - as in saving our history:

\*The Warthen Jail and Brown House for starters.

\*In making it available to local people, students and outsiders through organizing or publishing genealogical data.

\*Or collecting information or items that portray the past "us" of Washington County for Museum holdings and display.

National Register listing is pending for the Village of Warthen, an event worth a big celebration!!

Please attend meetings and come work with us. Even small efforts amount to something here. Let's see what we can do together to save our roots so our spirits can soar with pride!

Jo

### 1996-97 Officers-Committee Chairs

President - Jo Cummings

Vice-President - Carolyn Fordham

Secretary - Patricia Mathis

Treasurer - Katye McCoy

Directors - Martha Armstrong, H.I. "Spud" Bridges,  
Gwen Hall, Allen Hodges, Gladys Spight

Brown House Chair - Mary Alice Jordan

Cemetery Chair -

Genealogy Chair - Gene Brantley

Historic Sites/Districts -

Living History - Neale Traugh

Museum Chair - Mary Alice Jordan

Program - Ray Hollingsworth

Publicity/Newsletter - Brenda Hollingsworth

### Indians and Native Americans provide theme

"Native Americans" is the theme for the January 27 meeting of the Society with Bobby Strange, Leon Perry, Mike Buhler and Eleanor Rawlings sharing stories and displaying artifacts they have gathered. The focus will be on the Indians who especially lived in Washington County and Central Georgia.

Everyone is invited to attend this meeting at 7:30 p.m. Monday, January 27 at the Washington EMC civic room. This should be a good program for the youngsters and of interest to everyone.

Maps of Washington County and Georgia will be displayed so the stories and relics can begin to tell us of those who lived here many centuries before our arrival.

"As this is meant to be a "Show & Tell" meeting, everyone is invited to bring your own Indian finds and stories," says Ray Hollingsworth, program chairman.

### Ghost Stories Wanted

Do you know any local history ghost stories, or have a nightly visitor. Randall Floyd wants to hear from you. Call him at (706) 738-0354.

### Genealogy Notes...

Members are recording deaths from microfiche starting in 1919, from lists at the "Poor Farm" starting in the 1800s and from microfilm of newspapers starting in 1957. We already had those from Mayo Funeral Home. Louise McDaniel continues to clip all the current ones.

A new index book has been started listing pedigree charts others have shared, when we answer the many letters, phone calls and visits to the museum. People have come to the Genealogy Room from all over researching their ancestors who lived in this county.

### Mark Your Calendar...

\*Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m. Society Meeting, EMC Civic Room.

\*April 14, 4:30 p.m. Board of Directors, Museum.

\*April 28, 7:30 p.m. Society meeting, EMC Civic Room.

\*July 14, Board Meeting.

\*July 28, Society Meeting.

**Washington County Historical Society**

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Sandersville, Georgia 31082

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*Benjamin Bryan*

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## Lots of Action at the Brown House

There continues to be a lot of action either happening at the Brown House or to add to the restoration fund.

Dr. Charles Ouzts of Atlanta established in December, 1994 the Charles V. Ouzts Trust Fund, the interest of which is to help support the Brown House Museum. He added to the amount in December, 1995 and recently in December, 1996, he gave 100 shares of Exxon stock valued at \$9,500. The market value of the stocks in the fund is \$95,925 as of 12-31-96.

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In 1995 the E.J. Grassmann Trust granted \$5,000 to the Historical Society to be used to establish a History Research Room in the Brown House Museum.

In December, 1996 a second grant of \$5,000 was given for the same purpose

\* \* \* \* \*

A very successful Living History Encampment was held November 23-24 at the Brown House. It was arranged and performed by the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the 49th Infantry.

We are very grateful for their hard work which reaped 2/3 of the gate receipts for the Brown House Renovation Fund. Thanks also to everyone who helped at the gate as hostesses and participants.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Mark Newman Chapter, 49th Regiment has offered to donate the labor to wire the Brown House. Two members, John Robert "Robbie" Brantley and Mell Daniel are state licensed electricians. What a great contribution!! As soon as we receive the plans from architect Lane Greene's lighting

engineer, we will make arrangements with Robbie and Mell to begin.

\* \* \* \* \*

Van Dollar will begin some repairs in the next few weeks, coordinating with the electricians.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Pilot Club of Washington County held a successful Christmas Stroll on December 12 in Tennille, with the proceeds to be split between the Brown House and the Tennille Depot Renovation project. The total will be announced soon.

Many thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Tony Turner, Mary Smith Tanner, Lois Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Marc Sack, and Dr. and Mrs. John Clements who opened their homes and to the Tennille Baptist Church members for having the church opened and filled with music.

The Society is very grateful to the Pilots for this annual project which has benefited the Brown House Restoration.

### Free Lectures Offered

The Georgia Historical Society has announced a series of spring lectures, open to the public and held in the library at Hodgson Hall, 501 Whitaker Street, Savannah.

Feb. 13, 7 p.m. Blacks on the Savannah Homefront, by Dr. William A. Byrne, Norfolk State University.

March 13, 7 p.m. Charlotte's Boys: The Story of a Savannah Family During the Civil War, by Muriel Joslyn, author.

April 17, 7 p.m. Rebel Georgia during the War, by Dr. F.N. Boney, University of Georgia.

April 24, Sister Against Sister: the divided daughters of Fanny Kemble, by Catherine Clinton, Harvard University.

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