

Washington County Historical Society

129 Jones Street, Sandersville, Georgia 31082

NEWSLETTER

Volume 9 - Number 4

October 1997

Chartered 1976

Duels to be topic of Oct. 27 meeting at 7 p.m. at Washington EMC

"With a pen dipped in sorrow's deepest dye, guided by a hand whose every pulsation is punctured with pain, and with a heart filled with grief, it becomes the duty of the writer to record the saddest page in Sandersville's history." With those words the editor of the *Middle Georgia Progress* reported the death of two young men in the Tuesday, July 18, 1893 newspaper. The column was headed "A Deadly Duel."

Have you ever wondered how some men could become so angry they would face off with another, fighting a duel until one or both is fatally wounded?

Frank T. Wheeler, assistant director of the Georgia Historical Society, has researched the subject and will be speaking on dueling at the Oct. 27 meeting of the Society at the Washington EMC Civic Room.

Because of the conflict with the Community Concert Association program, the society meeting has been moved up to 7 p.m. We will dispense with most of the formal business so those who are interested in both events may attend some of

each. Refreshments will be served after the presentation.

Before coming to the state Society in Savannah, Wheeler served as manuscript curator at the Atlanta History Center and as university archivist and faculty member at the University of New Hampshire.

He has a BA from the University of Georgia and a MLS from Clark University. In addition to his Society duties, he is an adjunct faculty member at Armstrong Atlantic State University. This should be an interesting program!

Book Signing

We are proud of our local authors and have invited Gwen Hall and Lydia Poole to bring their books to the Oct. 27 meeting. Both will be set up at 6:30 p.m. before the meeting if you would like to see their publications, perhaps purchase one and have it autographed,

Gwen's books are "The History of Deepstep, and "The History of the Deepstep United Methodist Church." Lydia's is "The Stokes Family History - 33 Generations."

President's Corner ... by Jo Cummings

Warthen hosted a great Ramble. Over 100 visitors discovered Warthen's hidden treasures including a fine exhibit..

Wendy Bibb, chamber of commerce executive director, commented at 3 o'clock, "There were so many cars, I couldn't find a parking place in Warthen."

The Society's brochure on Warthen also debuted that day. Look for it around the county and soon in welcome centers.

Simultaneously, the Brown House volunteers achieved new stratospheres with over \$5,500 in Flea Market profits!

The Museum has a wonderful Civil War exhibit. Stop in on Tuesday or Thursday afternoons. This Society, all volunteers, can really turn out successes! Hooray!

Sadly we were recently informed that our grant application for restoration of the Old Jail in Warthen has been turned down.

This does not mean we are not going to work on this structure, but it does mean we will have to look in more directions for funding.

Please make note of the time change for Monday's meeting, bring a friend and come learn about duels.

Genealogy Collection is Growing

Recent additions to the collection include:

"The Cooley Family," an account of two well-known local families, the Cooleys and the Sparks, by Shelly Dobbs Dooley of Indianapolis, Indiana. This volume was given to the Genealogy Library at the Museum by the author in memory of her mother, Shelby Sparks Dobbs.

"The Hardisons, A Southern Odyssey," by Elizabeth Shrove Ryan originally of Chapel Hill, N.C. contains two chapters on the Hardisons in Washington County, 1800-1828 and 1875-1889 with general history of the periods. This book was donated to the Genealogy Collection by Mrs. Ryan in appreciation for the help of Society members and particularly Mary Alice Jordan, Nonie Veal and the late Elizabeth Newsom.

Copies of this book are available from Mrs. Ryan at a cost of \$30 plus \$5 for postage. Contact her at 56 Taconic Avenue, Great Barrington, MA 01230.

Our congratulations to Sara T. Dukes for compiling and writing "Our Jones and Taylor Families of Washington County, Georgia," with the chart format and other resources by Gene Brantley. This book is very clearly done and well organized. Mrs. Dukes has presented a copy in notebook form to the Genealogy Collection and to the Sandersville Public Library.

Society Meeting - Monday, Oct. 27, 7 p.m.

Washington County Historical Society

129 Jones Street, Post Office Box 6088
Sandersville, Georgia 31082

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Museum & Brown House ...by Mary Alice Jordan

The Civil War era is portrayed in the Museum exhibit done by Glenda Ruth Johnson. Many people saw this very well done display during the Kaolin Festival and we are most grateful for her time and expertise.

Our last exhibit on early Washington County pottery contained several nineteenth century jugs on loan from Rawlings Antiques. We thank Eleanor for her contribution to the exhibit.

The Brown House

The lights are on at the Brown House which has been completely rewired. The back and front porch lights are on a photocell so they will burn at night. Temporary fixtures are being used until the plastering and painting are done. We are grateful for the contribution of labor made by the 49th Georgia Infantry, Co. H, Robby Brantley, Commander, and the students from Sandersville Tech. Van Dollar has completed the wiring. A complete report of the cost will be given at the membership meeting.

The Flea Market was a big success, thanks to the public who gave us many, many items to sell. Presently we have made \$5,583.81 and hope to reach \$6,000 with the few items left to sell. Proceeds benefit the Brown House restoration.

A very special thanks to Anne Smith who was chairman of the pricing and displays. Many people helped including Edna Lewis, Carolyn Marchman, Mary Morse, Marilyn Daniel, Otis Smith, Lewis West, Loretta Cato, Gus Ouzts, Gladys Spight, Rachel Tanner, Rosemary Carter, Phyllis Sweigard, Christine Pittman, Frances Holmes, Jean Sheppard, Laura Evans, Willie Pearl Dillard, Betty Flemister, Gerri Hudson, Julia Wood, Alice Young, Louise Lord, Donna Ridgeway, Joyce Mock, Carolyn Fordham, Roy and Hilda Etheridge.

Cashiers were Katy McCoy, Patricia Mathis, Jean Bevell, Odessie Boyd, Betty Ann Forrester, Lucy Nell Smith, Polly Tompkins, Martha Armstrong, Julia Lou Lord, Martha Riner and Lewis West. Thank you for all your good help.

Dear Washington County
Historical Society Members,

On behalf of "The Warthen Kaolin Festival Committee," we'd like to thank you for highlighting Warthen for the Ramble this year. We are so proud to have been placed on the National Registry and have Georgia's oldest log jail located here.

It is the interest, support and hard work of individuals like you that make historical events around our entire county a success.

"All the Best,"

Jewell Turner, Committee Chairman

Odds & Ends

On Thursday, Oct. 30, the Schoolhouse Players of Bartow will present "Smoke on the Mountain," in the restored Mancin Auditorium in Bartow. Editor's Note: If you have not seen this wonderful restoration, I can highly recommend you go to Bartow. Advance tickets are \$6 and may be ordered by sending your check to P.O. Box 251, Bartow, GA 30413.

From the Georgia Battlefields newsletter:

For those interested in Civil War sites in north Georgia, contact the Northwest Georgia Travel Association for a free copy of their current edition of "Blue and Gray Trail." An excellent guide, the updated edition lists 50 sites between Chattanooga and Atlanta with a brief description and a map.

Contact the Northwest Georgia Travel Association at P.O. Box 184, Calhoun, GA 30703 or phone (706) 629-3406.

A volume, "Confederate Flags in the Georgia State Capitol Collection," is offered by the Georgia Historical Society at a cost of \$20 plus \$3 shipping (Ga. residents add 6% sales tax). Photos and descriptions of the flags with histories are included. There are 72 pages with color and b&w illustrations.

Contact the Georgia Historical Society, 501 Whitaker St., Savannah, GA 31499 or phone (912) 651-2125.

If you are interested in the Savannah Downtown Neighborhood Asso. Holiday Tour of Homes your president has order blanks and more information. Dates are Dec. 13, afternoon and candlelight, and Dec. 14, afternoon. Cost is \$20.

Georgia Historical Society Fall Meeting in Rome, Georgia
Friday, Oct. 31 & Saturday, Nov. 1

Meetings at Barry College - Tour two homes and area museum
Cocktails and Buffet at two private homes

For registration information see Jo Cummings or call (912) 651-2125