

Washington County Historical Society

129 Jones Street, Sandersville, Georgia 31082

NEWSLETTER

Volume 9 - Number 2

April 1997

Chartered 1976

President's Corner...

From my corner things look quite active for our society. I have participated in meetings of several committees and am pleased to have closer knowledge of the nuts and bolts of our activities.

The nearly ninety responses to our January survey on the membership letter were really heartening and helpful in inviting new members onto our existing committees.

We had many expressions of interest in our ongoing activities and none suggested that we were missing anything! Genealogy, Museum and Brown House were named most often. Some responses named more than one area and we welcome all those Renaissance persons.

Our new affiliation with the Georgia Historical Society entitles us to exciting opportunities and assistance. This society is trying to put small history minded groups in contact with other such groups and expects to advise us on our endeavors! Dream up questions where we might use their expertise to guide us to answers.

I am happy to announce that David Salisbury has agreed to chair the Cemetery Committee. The owner of Saunder's Inn, Salisbury has become very interested in the history of the area and is eager to learn more about the cemetery. We still need a chairman for the Historic Sites and Districts. Please call if you are interested.

Jo

Membership Numbers Grow

Membership chairman Carolyn Fordham reports the WaCo Historical Society has 53 Life members and 88 paid members for a total of 141.

If you have not sent in your dues, please send them to the society at the return address on this newsletter. Dues are: \$10 for an individual, \$12 for a family membership and \$100 for Life membership.

In addition, cash donations or donations of items for the museum are always welcome.

Contact one of the officers for more information.

The history of Linton is topic at April 28 Society meeting

The small town of Linton developed around the once famous Washington Institute school. The April 28 Historical Society program will feature Sydney Trawick telling about Linton. She has written several articles on the small town and is quite an expert on that area in Hancock County just north of Washington County.

The meeting will be Monday, April 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the Washington EMC civic room. Everyone is encouraged to attend to learn more about our neighboring community.

The January meeting was considered a huge success with nearly 100 attending to learn more about Native Americans.

Plan now to attend the July 28 meeting when Dr. Todd Groce, executive director of the Georgia Historical Society, will bring a program on cemeteries in the southeast, what the tombstones represent and why various burial customs have evolved.

He will also give us a brief introduction to their activities, telling us what assistance they can give us with our many projects.

For the October program, plans are to focus on the War Between the States coordinating it with a display in the museum during the Kaolin Festival. If you have artifacts, letters, and any materials from this period which could be displayed at the museum, please contact Mary Alice Jordan.

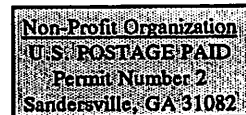
Research is on-going at Old Jail Museum

Spud Bridges, Martha Riner and others continue to research businesses and homes and where they were located.

Louise Lord and Carolyn Fordham are serving as Museum hostesses for March and April. If you can help on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons call Mary Alice Jordan at 552-2963.

Washington County Historical Society

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



Address Correction Requested

April, 1997

Brown House electrical work in progress

The electrical rewiring at the Brown House is in progress. Robert Brantley and Mell Daniel, licensed electricians and their helpers from the 49th Regiment Civil War Volunteers are following plans drawn by an engineering firm using specifications of historic architect Lane Greene.

During March, Van Dollar worked for two and a half weeks on inside construction problems.

Music Box comes full-circle to Brown House in Sandersville

A very interesting music box has been donated to the Brown House by James S. Joseph of Verona, PA. The box was the treasured possession of Marie Brown Peterson the last resident of the house. She had this box during her growing up years on North Harris Street and now it has come full circle back home.

The box was given to Teresa Stanley Webb sometime before Marie's death, and was taken by Mr. Joseph to Pittsburgh after Mrs. Webb's death. Mr. Joseph is a son of Alma Stanley Joseph, a lifelong friend of Marie Brown.

The music box, made in Switzerland, patented in 1894, has been completely restored by Mr. Joseph and is in working order. It plays about eight tunes. The box is now in the present Museum. We are extremely grateful for this wonderful donation and hope this is the beginning of many items that will come back home to the Brown House when it is complete.

Mary Alice.

Meeting hosted by state society

Society president Jo Cummings and Genealogy Chair Gene Brantley attended the seventh of a series of workshops last Saturday in LaGrange and sponsored by the Georgia Historical Society.

The main focus of the session was Care of Historic Records, with courses on managing collections, keeping records on donated items, making them accessible to patrons, arranging records, careful preservation of records, temperature considerations and disaster planning.

Tammy Galloway, archivist from the Atlanta History Center led the meeting. The series was co-sponsored by the Society of Georgia Archivists and funded by the Georgia History Records and Advisory Board.

Our society membership in the state organization will open up programs like this to our members.

These meetings will also permit societies to display items they have for sale such as books. In addition, participation in these workshops will result in consultants available to critique what we are doing in various areas. There are over 100 affiliates in Georgia with whom we can exchange information and ideas.

1997-98 Officers

President - Jo Cummings
Vice-President - Carolyn Fordham
Secretary - Patricia Mathis
Treasurer - Katye McCoy
Directors: Martha Armstrong, H.L. "Spud" Bridges,
Gwen Hall, Allen Hodges, Gladys Spight
Program - Ray Hollingsworth
Membership - Carolyn Fordham
Genealogy - Gene Brantley
Cemetery - David Salisbury
Historic Sites & Districts - Vacant
Warthen Jail/Town - Jewell Turner
Brown House & Museum - Mary Alice Jordan
Living History - Neale Traugh
Publicity/Newsletter - Brenda Hollingsworth
Hospitality - Gladys Spight