

Washington County Historical Society

129 Jones Street, Sandersville, Georgia 31082

NEWSLETTER

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From the President's Corner

Happy New Year! 1998 seems off to a bright start for us. There is lots of good and interesting news for our Historical Society! I am very excited to tell you that we have money coming through the Governor's Discretionary Fund to restore the Warthen Jail. Come to the meeting for details.

Also good news is that Tommy Walker has agreed to be nominated to the Vice-Presidency, replacing Carolyn Fordham, who has worked closely and steadily for us. His good humor, enthusiasm and experience will be a new strength to us.

Carolyn, we do appreciate you and thank you for your ideas, enthusiasm and work. We will continue to call on you.

It occurs to me that this quarterly note may represent a "column," but truly I feel it's a dialog in the making, and your turn comes at the meeting. Hope we'll see you there.!

Eleanor Schub home offered for restoration

Dr. William Rawlings, Jr. has made an offer to the Society which involves the home of the late Eleanor Schub on South Harris Street. Although there have been additions to the home over the years, Dr. Rawlings believes the original 19th century structure is salvageable and could be moved to another location.

He is offering the house for sale for \$5,000 with the proceeds donated to the Society together with an additional \$5,000. The buyer will be eligible to receive the whole \$10,000 as a grant to assist in the moving and restoration of the house after the Society judges the buyer has fulfilled the obligations of moving and restoration.

The Society will administer the grant and have the use of the interest during the period of work. In addition, if the buyer only moves the property without restoration, the Society will retain the \$5,000.

This proposal will be discussed at the meeting.

Society to host seminar

On Saturday, April 18 we will host a one-day seminar on "Don't Let Them Become Extinct: Basic Collections Preservation" here at EMC presented by Gordon L. Jones, curator of military history at the Atlanta History Center. Watch for more details.

Ocmulgee Indians to be topic of January Society program

Sandra Flowers, ranger at Ocmulgee Park in Macon, will present our program on Native Americans in Central Georgia on Monday, January 26, at 7:30 p.m. at the Washington EMC Civic Room.

This will be a good follow-up to our program on Indians last year.

Native Americans lived in Central Georgia for many thousands of years and their relics can be found in most areas of the state. The most impressive of the Indians are the Nomads of the Ocmulgee River. Ms. Flowers will speak on this group, focusing on their activities around the Ocmulgee Mounds.

Society dues due now

Letters have been mailed to all regular members and others on our mailing list stating it is time for payment of annual dues.

If you have not sent in yours, please send them to the society at the return address on this newsletter or bring them to the Society meeting Jan 26.

Dues are:

-\$10 for an individual

-\$12 for family membership

-\$100 for Life membership.

In addition, cash donations or donations of items are always welcome, especially with the restoration of the Brown House a high priority. Contact one of the officers for more information.

1996-97 Officers-Committee Chairs

President - Jo Cummings

Vice-President/Membership - Tommy Walker

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 - David Salisbury

Genealogy Chair - Gene Brantley

Historic Sites/Districts - Open

Living History - Neale Traugh

Museum Chair - Mary Alice Jordan

Program - Ray Hollingsworth

Publicity/Newsletter - Brenda Hollingsworth

Warthen Old Jail - Jewell Turner

Washington County Historical Society

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Museum and Brown House

by **Mary Alice Jordan, chairman**

Because of the closing of the Sandersville Public Library, the Transylvania Club has given the Museum some interesting scrap books and two rifles, a single and double barrel, dating from before the Civil War.

Also we have received a number of copies of a pamphlet, "Ladies Volunteer Aid Association of Sandersville, Washington County, Georgia, 1861-1862," published by the Georgia Historical Society in 1968. These will be on sale at the Museum. Many thanks to the Transylvania Club for these jewels.

One of our special benefactors, Dr. Charles Ouzts, is very interested in helping us complete the renovation of the Brown House this year. He is willing to contribute means, and is accumulating some period furniture. He has offered to buy boxwoods and camellias for the grounds. We must meet his interest and challenge to complete this restoration.

The Brown House Fund stands at \$2,349 plus the \$7,000 received in December from the state grant to help pay for the

wiring of the house. At present all the bills are paid. Sheet rock has been placed on the walls upstairs (unfinished) and some beautiful molding is in place downstairs (acquired by Lewis West in Savannah.)

The downstairs walls of the early house will be replastered. The plumbing and the bathroom walls will be the next project.

We had a surprise visit from the Georgia Civil War Commission in December. We showed them the Brown House, and boasted the county as much as possible. They are planning a tour of Sherman's March.

In December Dr. Ouzts made another contribution to the Brown House Maintenance Fund established by him. The donation included: 100 shares of IBM, 100 shares of US Bancorp and 100 shares of Josten, valued at \$24,600. This will be added to the November fund balance of \$132,759.

The income from the Flea Market was about \$6,000 and the Pilot Club will be giving the Brown House Building Fund some profits from the Christmas Stroll held in December.

News From the State Society

The Georgia Historical Society (GHS) and the Upson Historical Society invite you to "Lee and Gordon at War Friday, Jan. 23, 7:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Thomaston. The program will be presented by Dr. Emory M. Thomas, Regents Professor of History, UGA.

The GHS 1998 Spring Lecture Series includes:

"The Trials of Slaves in Baldwin County, Georgia, 1812-1838" on Feb. 12 at 7 p.m.

"In Search of the Savannah River Plantations," March 12, 7 p.m.

"Scarlett Revisited: A Planter's Daughter in the Old South," April 16, 7 p.m.

All programs take place in the library at Hodgson Hall in Savannah. Call (912)651-2125 for information.

A bit of local history

Fifty years ago, in 1948, a group of local citizens founded the Washington County Community Concert Association with the purpose of bringing the finest in classical, folk, jazz and popular music to local citizens.

Celebrating the fiftieth season, the group will have a reception after the Epic Brass concert Thursday, Jan. 29 at Washington EMC with all members invited. There will be an exhibit of memorabilia. at the reception.

**Society meeting,
7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 29**