

Washington County Historical Society

129 Jones Street, Sandersville, Georgia 31082

NEWSLETTER

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Chartered 1976

Joe Wheeler topic Monday, Oct. 26.

Ray Hollingsworth has been researching General Joseph Wheeler and will bring the program on "Fightin' Joe Wheeler, the War Years," to our next membership meeting on Monday, October 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the civic room of Washington EMC.

Committee chairmen will be making their annual reports on their committees' activities during this past year. The nominating committee will have a new slate of officers to present.

And once again, Gladys Spight will have arranged for some delicious refreshments. So come, learn a little, hear a little bragging and have a great snack. Everyone is welcome at all meetings of the Historical Society.

President's Corner..... by Jo Cummings

One of my goals as Historical Society President has been to bring a younger (that means my age and younger!) people into action for history. Our success in that during Festival and on parade day positively delights me!

The Brown House attracted a steady stream of visitors. The Charles E. Choate Exhibit (I acknowledge it is owned by the chamber of commerce, but our research took it from a dream to a reality) was also open bringing in a sizable group.

Our Fair Booth caught the attention of young and old. Interesting old articles to handle and photos attracted attention. Visitors picked up brochures and handouts and purchased a few items on sale.

It took the time of willing volunteers at all of these occasions, as well as at the Cemetery Ramble in Tennille. It was a strong and worthy extension of heritage awareness! Hip, Hip, Hooray!

Another proud accomplishment is the restoration of the Old Jail in Warthen. Just a few small items remain to be finished.

I feel encouraged with every success we have as a Society. I have felt appreciation and encouragement from every participating member during my tenure as president. I hope your contributions of time, thought, effort and funds will continue to enable our flame for heritage to burn brightly. Thank you all.

Jo

Museum and Brown House

by Mary Alice Jordan,

We welcome Betty Kicklighter as a volunteer Museum hostess.

Immediately following the Kaolin Festival Parade on October 10, the Brown House was open with an exhibit of basket and pictures of basket makers. People came all afternoon and were very interested in the house as well as the exhibit. Our donation box yielded \$100.

A special thanks to Ann Smith, Oliver Wilson and Loreth Thiele for helping set up the exhibit. Mary Ellen Garner, J Cummings and Ann Smith furnished baskets made in Washington County. Patricia Mathis, Carolyn and Billy Marchman, Marth Riner, Louise Ford and I were hostesses.

We are so very grateful for a generous gift in memory of Glynn Robinson given for the Brown House restoration. Glynn was a valued member of the Brown House Restoration Committee for a number of years and served the Society as president.

Until we received this gift we had run out of funds and had stopped work on the house. However, we are pleased to have reached a plateau in the construction and can now proceed with the finishing stage. If you have not made a contribution this year, now would be a very good time to do so. We are grateful for small donations as well as large.

We have composed a letter to send to people out of town who have special connections in Washington County. We have mailed only ten letters and have received five checks. If you know of people who would help, please give me their names and addresses.

In the Publishing World

Congratulations to Grace Womble who has published an enlarged "History of Union Church". She also has a great article in the October 14 issue of The Sandersville Progress. Grace has also been named a deacon in her church.

Isabel Snyder has given to the Genealogy Room a copy of Edith Reynolds Stephens' and Mary Reynolds Lewis' book, "Time to Remember."

Mr. Clyde Hooks has done a revision of the Hooks family book.

Our history book, "Cotton to Kaolin," is at the printers for a second printing. We have very few copies of the first printing to sell. The new edition will be available for Christmas.

For Your Information....

Amendment #1 on the November ballot will provide for the creation of the Georgia Land, Water, Wildlife and Recreation Heritage Fund. This fund will be used to acquire, manage and rehabilitate natural lands, historic areas, parks and recreational facilities.

It addresses the quality of life of Georgia citizens in three areas: environmental protection, historic preservation and recreational opportunities.

Preservation for our grandchildren and future generations of our beautiful natural environment, the protection of historic sites, from Antebellum homes to Civil War battlefields to prehistoric Indian mounds, and the provision for local parks and recreation is the purpose of Amendment #1.

The Heritage Fund's primary funding would come from an increase in the real estate transfer tax. This is not your annual property tax, but a one-time tax that is paid in a Georgia real estate transaction at the time of sale or transfer. The tax currently stands at \$1 per \$1,000 of property value. Passage of this amendment would raise the transfer tax to 0.2 percent or \$2 per \$1,000.

This is not an annual tax, but would be applied only when the property is sold or transferred, and not upon refinancing of a mortgage. It is estimated that the fund would raise around \$32 million a year.

Protecting our rivers, streams, wildlife, historic sites and providing community parks - these things which enhance our quality of life - can have the residual effect of also increasing the value of our property.

The Heritage Fund will be administered by the State department of Natural Resources but overseen by an unpaid advisory board of 15 Georgia citizens appointed by the Governor. This board will establish the criteria for grant recipients and make recommendations on purchases of land. Any private citizen or group can also make recommendations.

The Amendment will be in place for four years when Georgia voters will again consider the question.

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Fair booth a success

The Historical Society recently participated in the Washington County Agricultural and Youth Fair held October 5-10. The Society's exhibit displayed books and materials for sale and small items of historic value as well as information on joining the Society and its various committees. The booth was manned by volunteers Sarah Lansdell, Loretta Cato, Jo Cummings, Fay Bussell and Amanda Logue.

The purpose of the exhibit was to raise public awareness of the Society and its activities. The response from the public was very positive and we feel that we reached a portion of the community not previously involved with the Historical Society.

The Genealogy Committee gave out close to 100 Genealogy Starter Kits. We hope that by raising interest in heritage, we will see an increase in researchers and visitors to the Museum.

African-American resources needed.

As interest in genealogy increases, so does the need for more diverse information, resources and knowledge. Our Genealogy Room is greatly in need of information and research materials on African-American Genealogy. We already have some data, but it needs to be compiled and indexed for easier use.

The Society has formed a committee for African-American Heritage, which we hope will inspire greater interest in African-American genealogy. The Genealogy Committee looks forward to working with this newly formed committee to increase our genealogical holdings. Anyone interested in joining the African-American Heritage Committee can obtain further information by visiting the Museum on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2-5 p.m.

Please note: If your label has a blue mark on it, your dues have not been paid. We have not heard from you in some time and we wonder if you still want to receive this newsletter. If so, call (912) 552-3035 and leave a message. Thanks.

Information on Amendment #1

(Continued from Front Page)

Chambers of commerce and business leaders throughout the state have declared their support for this amendment. In the political arena, both Republicans and Democrats including Gov. Zell Miller have expressed their support for this issue.

Endorsement also comes from the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, the Nature Conservancy of Georgia, the Georgia Wildlife Federation, the Trust for Public Land, the Georgia Conservancy, the Conservation Fund and the Georgia Recreation and Parks Association.

The amendment is the result of legislation passed during the 1998 session by the General Assembly. As Georgia's population grows, urban sprawl and pollution endanger much of the state's beautiful land.

The amendment follows the example of neighboring states Florida and Alabama.

For more information, contact Georgians for the Heritage Fund at (404) 609-9900.

Vote for Amendment #1 on November 3.

What's new in the Genealogy Room?

Quite a few additions have been made to the collection. Franklin Ingram of North Carolina has sent letters that he obtained from the North Carolina State Archives concerning early Washington County citizens. Descendants of Julius Jackson and related families will surely benefit from the donation.

Ashley Pollette and Louis LeConte have donated a book on the Kinman, Brown, Roughton and Harris families. The book contains photographs, Bible records, letters and family information - a must see for all related families.

Books on Chambers and Reynolds families have also been donated recently.

A new item at the Genealogy Room - NATF 80 forms - supplied by the National Archives and used to obtain Pension Application files, Bounty-Land Warrant Application files and Military Service Records. The forms can primarily be used to obtain Civil War Service Records. There is a fee for obtaining the records from the National Archives, but it is usually minimal. Copies of this form can be picked up during normal Museum hours.

The Genealogy Committee is currently putting together a cookbook which will contain cherished recipes that have been handed down through the years as well as some newer ones. Copies of the book will be available for purchase in December. For information on pre-publication purchase, please contact Amanda Logue at 552-5087.

On the Web...

Don't forget to check out the newest additions to the Washington County GenWeb Website. It is updated monthly. Everyone is encouraged to contribute information to it. Visit the site at <http://www.pollette.com/washington/washington/htm>

Amanda Logue

Calendar

October 20-25 - National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference in Savannah.

October 26, 7:30 p.m. - Membership meeting, Washington EMC.

November 3 - Election - Vote for Amendment # 1.

November 21, 1 p.m. - Dedication of Griswoldville Battle Field (10 miles north of Macon).

November 26 - Happy Thanksgiving! Gather information for your Family History while everyone is together.

December 24 - January 1 - Enjoy the holidays.

January 11, 1999 - Historical Society Board Meeting.

January 25, 1999 - Historical Society Membership Meeting.

Attend the Historical Society Meeting Monday, Oct. 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the Washington EMC civic room.