

Washington County Historical Society

129 Jones Street, Sandersville, Georgia 31082

NEWSLETTER

Volume 9 - Number 6

April 1998

Chartered 1976

President's Cornerby Jo Cummings

Wheels turn slowly, slowly! But, I was exceedingly happy to learn that the check is in the mail from the Governor's discretionary fund for the renovation of the Warthen Old Jail. Now we can get on with the work on site!

I am very much disturbed with the U.S. Postal Service proposal that city mail delivery in Sandersville be at curb side boxes. It is a great intrusion in the appearance of our streets, it invites theft and it seems unsafe for postal employees and older and handicapped residents. It would discourage further Historic Districts.

Representatives of our Society have met with Postmaster Tim Jackson who wants to be a good neighbor and is a good listener to our feelings. Also, we presented the issue to Congressman Charlie Norwood who suggested a petition be signed by as many residents as we can get. He will respond to it.

There will be a handout at our Membership meeting with addresses and I will ask for a vote on the petition. Please speak up, however you feel.

Jo

Author to speak on Hancock County at April 27 meeting

John Rozier, author of "The Houses of Hancock County, 1785-1865," will be the speaker at the April 27 meeting of the Washington County Historical Society. Meeting time is 7:30 p.m. and the location is the Washington EMC civic room.

John Rozier is a native of Hancock County, where his relatives first came in 1790.

After retiring from Emory University where he was director of Public Information Services, Rozier has written three books about his home county. The previous two are: "Black Boss: Political Revolution in a Georgia County" and "The Granite Farm Letters: The Civil War Correspondence of Edgeworth and Sallie Bird." The Granite Farm Letters won the Georgia Author of the Year Award in Southern Culture and the Confederate Memorial Literary Society for Outstanding Scholarship.

Black Boss and the Houses book are out-of-print, but Rozier will be bringing a few copies of The Granite Farm Letters with him when he comes to the Society meeting. He has agreed to autograph any of his books after the meeting.

Rozier and his wife Dorothy have resided near Emory for over forty years. Although he claims to not be an historian, his love and interest in the subject led their son John Paul Rozier to graduate from Oxford University with a degree in history.

He says he is not working on any other book now, but he still loves to read about the history of the Middle Georgia area.

At one point in his life, Rozier was an officer in the United States Foreign Service and a newspaper publisher.

Preservation Week to be observed

National Preservation Week is May 10-16. This year's theme is "Preservation Begins at Home." Your Society would like to do something special. Remember when we put pink ribbons on all the structures more than fifty years old? Bring your ideas to the meeting Monday.

Historical Society Calendar

April 27, 7:30 p.m. - Society Meeting, Washington EMC.

Program - John Rozier, author.

May 10-16 - National Preservation Week

May 29-30 - Georgia Trust Ramble

July 13, time to be announced - Society board of directors meet

July 27, 7:30 p.m. - Society Meeting, Washington EMC.

Program - The Brown House. See the restoration progress.

Historic awards received

We are proud of...

- Jewell Turner, Jr. who was recognized by the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation for his "Outstanding Achievement in Historic Preservation" for his research on Warthen, working to save the Old Jail there, and for having the community placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

-Jo Cummings and Brenda Hollingsworth, as co-chairmen of the Charles Edward Choate Memorial Room project recognized by the Georgia Trust as an "Outstanding Project." Sponsored by the chamber of commerce, the project features 14 watercolor or pen and ink drawings by Sterling Everett.

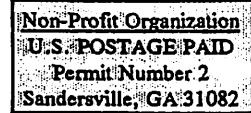
Sterling Everett and chamber executive Wendy Bibb were also present for the awards presentation which occurred at the annual meeting of the Trust which occurred in Macon April 18. The event also celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Trust.

Other Trust activities include: May 4-5, a needlework exhibit at Rhodes Hall in Atlanta. Admission \$3. May 29-30, Spring Ramble to Lexington, in Oglethorpe County.

See Jo for more information or call 404-881-9980.

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April 1998

Benefactor makes gift to Brown House restoration

by Mary Alice Jordan, chairman

Our generous benefactor, Dr. Charles Ouzts, has given stocks amounting to \$42,263.97 specified, not for the trust fund established by him to support the operation of the Brown House, but for restoration of the house. It is his way of helping us to get this job done. He has asked that this money help with plastering, heating and air, doors and stairway and grounds.

Because of this windfall, this work is now being done. Daniel Heating and Cooling, as low bidder, is now installing the heating and air. Wyman Moxley, plasterer, is plastering and repairing original plaster in the hallway and other rooms downstairs in the early house. Van Dollar continues to do the plumbing. Willingham Sash and Door in Macon is restoring some doors and Frank Meadows is working on the stairs. Bob West has done some planting on the grounds.

A special challenge

A challenge has been issued to match Dr. Ouzts' gift locally in order to complete more of the restoration of this valuable historic resource.

There is much yet to be done: painting, repairing, fireplaces and mantels, redoing floors and floor coverings, hardware and fixtures, cabinets and bookshelves, a security system, under-pining and back steps, driveway and grounds, etc, etc.

We want everyone to feel a part of this important project, and your gift will be recognized. Small, medium and large money gifts are needed and are tax deductible. Please send your check to Katy McCoy, treasurer, Historical Society, P.O. Box 126, Tennille, GA 31089.

Other gifts!!!

The Town and Country Garden Club has given a second gift of \$200 for plants for the Brown House grounds.

A check for \$1,650 for the Brown House project was received from the Pilot Club as part of the profits from the annual Christmas Stroll. We are grateful for this help from both these organizations.

Museum News - Mary Alice Jordan, chairman

The Museum welcomes Loretta Cato as a new volunteer hostess.

We thank Barbara Pruitt, who will be moving soon, for her

good and faithful service as a Museum hostess.

Mrs. Sam Lang, III has given to the Museum a pitcher which belonged to Sam's great-grandfather, Henry Long. The pitcher was presented to Henry Long by the Justices of the Supreme Court of Washington County as a testimonial of the appreciation of his services to the people of this county "in saving, by great personal daring and hazard, the county buildings from fire on the night of Nov. 21, 1854," as it is engraved.

The pitcher will be on display at the meeting Monday.

History book reprint

Most of the copies of "Cotton to Kaolin," the history book published by the Society, are sold. The society is discussing reprinting. Very small corrections might be made. If you know of any mistakes (dates or misspelled words) let Mary Alice know.

Web site for Wash. Co. history

Amanda Logue is the Washington County link for a web site connecting with Ashley Pollette in Sneads, Florida. They are currently researching census records.

Contact Amanda at <alogue@accucomm.net> or at 552-5087 and Ashley at <http://www.pollette.com> or at P.O. Box 810, Sneads, FL 32460.

1997-98 Officers - Committee Chairs

President - Jo Cummings

Vice-President - Tommy Walker

Secretary - Patricia Mathis

Treasurer - Katy McCoy

Directors - Martha Armstrong, H.I. "Spud" Bridges, Gwen Hall,

Allen Hodges, Gladys Spight

Brown House Chair - Mary Alice Jordan

Cemetery Chair - *Chairman needed*

Genealogy Chair - Gene Brantley

Historic Sites/Districts - *Chairman Needed*

Living History - Neale Traugh

Museum Chair - Mary Alice Jordan

Program - Ray Hollingsworth

Publicity/Newsletter - Brenda Hollingsworth