

Washington County Historical Society

129 Jones Street, Sandersville, Georgia 31082

NEWSLETTER

Volume 9 - Number 7

July 1998

Chartered 1976

The President's Corner - by Jo Cummings

Hooray!! The Tennille Woman's Club House was listed on the National Register on July 1. This is an achievement for the entire county.

National Register recognizes the importance of a structure in our local history and is a distinctive help to preserve that structure.

Placing structures on The Register is an important beginning, but is no guarantee of their preservation. All of us have a "stake" in the threads (or buildings) that make up the pattern of our culture and enhance the quality of community life - whether fancy or plain.

No one knows how best to support owners of historic buildings. The same effort probably won't work on each individual owner. Perhaps saying encouraging things to them, expressing appreciation for their efforts or fondness for a memory connected to the structure. Buildings are easy to take for granted and assume they are "fixed" there forever.

We lose buildings from neglect, disuse and lack of vision for how to recycle new uses into them.

I am concerned about our earliest and very significant Washington County property listed to the National Register in 1978. The buildings that make up the Francis Plantation farm complex near Davisboro are threatened by disuse. It is a unique treasure that makes explicit the functioning of an 1850s plantation. It has state-wide importance. It is irreplaceable. It is endangered.

Old buildings are precious visual evidence of our past. They do not last without active effort to preserve them. How to say, "I love your building. Can I help you save it?" I'm not sure how, but Let's act for preservation. Do you have some vision? Please share.

Hope to see you at our meeting Monday!

Jo

Schub House still available

The offer from Dr. William Rawlings Jr. to help with the moving of the Eleanor Schub House on South Harris Street is still open. Lane Lansdell (Sarah's daughter) has investigated all the particulars but has found she is unable to assume a project like this. She is willing to share all her research if anyone else is interested.

Time is running out to save this important Washington County structure. Call Jo Cummings at 552-5030 for more information.

Brown House to be program topic at Monday, July 27 meeting

Have you been curious about the status of the Brown House Restoration? Well, your questions may be answered at the July 27 meeting of the Society.

We will be hearing reports from the members of the Brown House Committee and then conclude the meeting with a tour and an old fashioned Ice Cream Social.

The meeting will begin Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the civic room of Washington EMC, and then later move next door to the Brown House.

Come and bring a friend!

Re-enactors marking graves

The Major Mark Newman Camp No. 1602, Sons of Confederate Veterans, together with the 49th Georgia Infantry, Company H, "Cold Steel Guards," are planning a Candlelight Memorial Service on Saturday, Oct. 4 at dusk in the Old City Cemetery.

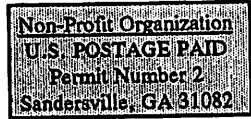
Descendants of Confederate Veterans are encouraged to participate in the service by answering the Roll Call of Honor and lighting a candle in memory of their ancestor. Descendants of Confederate Veterans buried elsewhere are also invited to participate in this beautiful and meaningful service.

The Major Mark Newman Camp is also preparing to place veteran markers on the graves of those Confederate Veterans in the Old City Cemetery and plan a special dedication ceremony in the spring. They will begin marking graves in Section A and D (rows 1-6) in the southeastern corner of the cemetery.

Families who would like to participate in these activities are asked to contact Camp Commander John R. Brantley or Glenda Ruth Johnson, acting cemetery chairman for the Society.

This project will be part of the on-going effort by the local SCV camp to identify and mark each veteran's grave.

Mrs. Johnson is attempting to document the burial locations of all known Washington County Confederate Veterans. If anyone has information or documentation, please contact her at (912) 552-6550.



Washington County Historical Society

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

July 1998

County Museum needs roof

A letter was written in April requesting the Washington County Board of Commissioners put a new roof on the Museum (the old jail and sheriff's home). Van Dollar says he installed the current roof on or about 1965.

Since we have occupied the building, Van has patched the roof many times (usually contributing his labor.)

Because it is difficult to detect leaks we have had some damage inside. Some eaves are rotting. It is imperative that this work be done ASAP. If you see one of the commissioners, please mention your concern.

We are grateful for: A booklet, "The Battle of Griswoldville," compiled by Charles F. Wells, which was given to the Museum by his family, Mr. and Mrs. Billy P. Kimberly of Macon.

We welcome back Museum hostess Peggy Phillips who has been out for some time with knee surgery.

Local group featured in summer

Georgia Historical Society newsletter

The Summer issue of *Footnotes*, the official newsletter of the Georgia Historical Society, features an "Affiliate Profile: Washington County," the story of our local Society.

The story includes a short history of the area and of the Society. It lists the museum and the genealogy room and the fact that seven local books can be purchased there.

"Over the years the Society has successfully completed the nomination to the National Register of Historic Sites of four sites, and four districts and one site to the State Register," the article states. It also mentions the work on the restoration of the City Cemetery and its listing on the Register and states two tour brochures have been prepared and assistance provided on two others, and the work on the Brown House.

We are proud for this recognition on the state level.

Work continues on Brown House

At long last the plastering is done all except for repairing the decorative molding in the parlor. This job took much longer than expected because some work had to be done over.

Van Dollar is back, cleaning and repairing. There are many jobs yet to be done.

We are very proud of the repairs to the railing which curved downward from the top of the stairs. It took a real artist with wood, Frank Meadows, to carve from a block of old pine a part of the curve and rail which were missing.

The missing mantels have been a challenge. We had one from the house stored, and several given, one recently by Mr. and Mrs. Ken Towe (Thank you!). Matching the size and style has been the challenge.

We welcome Dr. Joe Rawlings as a new member of the Brown House Restoration Committee.

Please come to the Society meeting on July 27 and let us show and tell you more about this important restoration project.

1998 Officers - Committee Chairs

President - Jo Cummings -
Vice-President - Tommy Walker
Secretary - Patricia Mathis
Treasurer - Katye McCoy
Directors - Martha Armstrong, H.L. Gwen Hall,
Allen Hodges, Gladys Spight
Brown House Chair - Mary Alice Jordan
Cemetery Chair - Glenda Ruth Johnson
Genealogy Chair - Gene Brantley
Historic Sites & Districts - chair needed
Living History - Neale Traugh
Museum Chair - Mary Alice Jordan
Program - Ray Hollingsworth
Publicity/Newsletter - Brenda Hollingsworth