

Washington County Historical Society

129 Jones Street, Sandersville, Georgia 31082, Phone 912-552-6965

NEWSLETTER

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Chartered 1976

President's message...

Looking back over one term of opportunity and challenge in leading the Society, I am amazed about the unnecessary worrying beforehand and the actual successes and pitfalls! So, what's new?

We have enjoyed some exciting achievements in launching this second and final term. For one, the adjective is "we", a blend of "you" and "I" working together. This mode is probably a most important dimension.

Several fresh, young faces have come onto the Board and in Committee Chair seats. It was g-r-e-a-t to have 16 faces at Monday's Board meeting! The African-American Committee met again and gained Katie Smith Poole as Acting Chair.

Activity begins again at the Brown House, leading to occupancy in 1999 - a thrilling achievement of months, even years' duration. Led by Mary Alice Jordan, that committee has pressed ever onward, thank goodness. Hopefully, the Genealogy Committee can realize their dream of a Genealogy Research Center in the jail. They are receiving many Internet requests, and their recently published cookbook is a delight.

We hope some of our achievements will be recognized at the Georgia Historical Society Conference in Augusta Feb. 19-20, and the Georgia Trust Annual meeting in Augusta April 16-18.

Possibly the highlight of 1999 for us will be hosting a Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation Ramble on Oct. 15-16. With our co-sponsors, the Chamber of Commerce, we will work hard to put our best foot forward for some 300 visitors from all over the state. While we will all need to pitch in to make it possible, aren't we proud for the opportunity?

Jo Cummings

Georgia Trust to Ramble in Washington County

Company's coming! This fall, on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 15-16, about 300 visitors will be descending on Washington County for a Semi-annual Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation Ramble. The Society and the chamber of commerce are co-sponsoring the activity. Coordinating the event are Nancy Tarbutton, Jo Cummings and Mary Alice Jordan.

Preliminary plans are for Ramblers to arrive Friday afternoon and tour historic structures in the Sandersville area, including some of those on the National Register of Historic Places. A dinner will be held that evening. Saturday activities will start in Tennille and continue in Sandersville and other significant locations throughout the county.

"It is a real honor to be selected for a Georgia Trust Ramble," said Tarbutton, a former board member of the state historic organization. "This will be a time for Washington County to really shine," added Cummings.

Woman's Clubhouse featured

A photograph of the Tennille Woman's Clubhouse is "February" on the WMAZ 1999 Central Georgia Historical Calendar. There may be copies still available. Call Glenn Johnson at WMAZ, (912) 752-1313 and ask for him.

The Woman's Clubhouse is our latest Washington County site to be placed on the National Register of Historic sites

First meeting of 1999 is set for January 25

The first meeting of the Society for this year will be Monday, Jan. 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the Civic Room of the Washington EMC. The meeting is open to the public.

New program chairman Deborah Rhodes will be bringing the program, a slide presentation on the "History of Women's Sportswear, 100 Years of Changes in Women's Sports and What They Wear."

As usual, Gladys Spight and her Hospitality Committee will be bringing delicious refreshments. Committee chairs will be reporting on their groups' activities, and you'll hear more about the Georgia Trust Ramble in October.

Bring a friend, bring your family, and come!

Genealogy reports... by Amanda Logue

The Genealogy Committee is looking forward to a busy new year! We have lots of plans for the year ahead as we strive to make our research facility one of the best. We are currently working on compiling the 1870 Black Census. Our African American resources are limited and we need to expand our horizons and make African American resources available to those who wish to research them.

We invite anyone who has African-American church records, Bible records, family histories, etc. to share them with us in an effort to help others research their history. (Ed. note: There is a copy machine at the Museum to duplicate your items.) Web site

Washington County's GenWeb site is continuing to be a huge success. We have received queries from all over the country about ancestors who once lived in Washington County. Many of the queries come with monetary donations and still others send research data and family histories as a result of the Web page. For those interested in viewing the Web page, go to <http://www.pollette.com/washington/washington.htm>

"Tasty Treasures" for sale

Just before Christmas the Genealogy Committee published a cookbook, "Tasty Treasures". We hope that the book which features "antique receipts" (recipes) as well as modern ones, will become a family heirloom.

We included a special section to record your family's history as well as an introduction on getting started researching and some helpful information. The cookbook was such a wonderful project that the committee plans to create a book of folk medicines, home remedies and folklore as our next project. Old recipes, remedies and sayings are an important part of our heritage and we want to preserve them.

Museum open twice a week

The Museum, located in the old jail, is open on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, 2-5 p.m. or by special appointment.

We now have an answering machine, so you may phone (912) 552-6965 and leave a message. Someone will return your call, when the Museum is staffed.

Address Correction Requested

Jan. 99

Brown House & Museum

by Mary Alice Jordan

Dr. Charles Ouzts has added to the Trust Fund for the Brown House Museum with 100 shares of Cousins Properties (approximate value \$3,100). We are very grateful for his continued support.

We have had some contributions in November and December for the Brown House restoration and hope that Van Dollar will start back to work the last of this month. We will finish the restrooms, the utility kitchenette and start on the inside painting. We have consulted Bonnie Downing, Macon interior decorator, who is noted for her work there in heritage homes. She has sent some suggestions. We will try to be true to the period of the house.

We need all of you who are reading this letter to be a part of this restoration. We are happy to receive small donations as well as large ones. Send your check to the Brown House Fund, Historical Society, P.O. Box 6088, Sandersville 31082.

"Cotton to Kaolin", the county history books have been reprinted. Purchase one at the Museum or at Karol's for \$50. About four of the first printing are still available for \$47.50. This is an important resource to have and to pass on to next generations.

The Museum continues to attract interest. This week visitors included a businessman from Milledgeville and a couple from the county, who found the current exhibit of Early Pictures of the County and the old jail fascinating. The Society was complimented on preserving our history in such a manner.

I was the volunteer hostess and answered a question about a house on the National Register, printed two obituaries from microfilm to mail to Indiana, took information from two telephone calls from out-of-state (queries about early family histories) and discussed local history with visitors, sold two history books and researched a grave site in the Tombstone Book - a typical afternoon. Usually there are people in the Genealogy Room working on family histories. Your Museum is open Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, 2-5 p.m.

Two new books recently given to the Genealogy Room are "Price, Price, Price", by John E. Mosley of Macon and "Kissin' Cusens of Coosa", by Ellie and Rebecca Bateman of Conyers.

African-American Committee

A newly formed committee... the purpose will be to expand the research materials available in the Genealogy Room. They will be soliciting copies of church records, family histories, records kept in family Bibles, school records, anything which can expand our knowledge of black families who grew up in this area or moved here. If you have anything to share, call Katie Poole, acting chair.

Just recently the chamber of commerce received a call from a Philadelphia travel agent who is trying to track down some slave records which started out in Savannah and were dropped at a church or other organization somewhere between Savannah and Atlanta. Does anyone know about them? Can you suggest any places to look? If so, contact Jo Cummings at (912) 552-5030 or Mary Alice Jordan at (912) 552-2963).

Did you know there is an African-American Genealogical Research Institute? The committee plans to learn more.

Your Washington County Museum is a great source of gift items and research material which may be purchased. Included are:

- "Cotton to Kaolin, History of Washington County, Georgia 1784-1989", \$50 plus \$5 for shipping and handling.
- "Washington County Tombstone Inscriptions"
- "Tax Digest of Washington County 1829-1903"
- "Washington County Estate Papers 1829-1903"
- "Mary Lollie's Cookbook", great recipes!
- "History of Deepstep, Georgia" by Gwen Hall
- "History of the Deepstep Methodist Church" by Gwen Hall

- "On the Road", a pamphlet on Sherman's March to the Sea as he came through the area

- "Old City Cemetery List", a booklet listing known burials in the cemetery

- "Georgia Historic Markers Located in Washington County" Check with Museum workers for prices.

...And the newest publication:

- "Tasty Treasures from the Washington County Genealogy Committee", great old recipes, lots of new ones and a unique kids' section. Also includes suggestions and contacts on collecting family history and work sheets for you to use, \$10 plus \$2 for postage and handling.

All may be purchased at the Museum and "Cotton to Kaolin" and "Tasty Treasures" are also available at Karol's.

Local History conference Feb. 19-20 in Augusta

The Georgia Local History Conference, sponsored by the Georgia Historical Society, will be held at the Partridge Inn. Sessions will be held on old photographs, cemetery preservaton, newsletters and publicity, museum exhibits, fundraising and volunteer help.

Local societies (like us) will be having sale tables for items such as the books listed above.

If you are interested in attending any part of this meeting or both days, contact Jo Cummings and get more details. Reservation deadline is Feb. 12.

1999-2000 Officers & Committee Chairs

- President - Jo Cummings
- Vice-President/Membership - Ray Hollingsworth
- Secretary - Martha Armstrong
- Treasurer - Katy McCoy
- Directors: Marilyn Daniel, Carolyn Fordham, Gwen Hall, Allen Hodges, Gladys Spight, Tommy Walker
- African-American Heritage - Katie Smith Poole
- Brown House & Museum - Mary Alice Jordan
- Cemetery - Glenda Ruth Johnson
- Genealogy - Gene Brantley & Amanda Logue
- Historic Sites & Districts - Adam Martin
- Hospitality - Gladys Spight
- Living History - We Need You!
- March to the Sea - Johnny Wilbanks
- Program - Deborah Rhodes
- Publicity/Newsletter - Brenda Hollingsworth