

Washington County Historical Society

P.O. Box 1088, Sandersville, Georgia 31082

Brown House Museum
268 North Harris Street
Sandersville, Ga 31082
Phone (912) 552-0965

Genealogical Museum
129 Jones Street
Sandersville, GA 31082
Phone (912) 552-6965

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Newsletter

October 1999

President's Notes... by Jo Cummings

I am so proud of the accomplishments of our society this year that I feel a little like a proud parent. I had some hand in our accomplishments - more on some than others - but mostly our fascinating organization worked its own magic. As Marilyn Daniel puts it, each committee is like a spoke that forms the wheel and keeps it rolling!

I do thank every member and volunteer for his/her contribution, ideas and time, that most precious commodity.

The Ramble, Kaolin Festival Parade Day, the ending of opening week at the Brown House Museum, followed by the Georgia Trust Ramble, all were an exciting climax of visitors, hosts and hostesses and encampment volunteers. When I visited the Brown House mid-afternoon on parade day, lots of "Ohs" and "Ahs" could be heard as visitors tried to take in its beauty in both structural restoration and furnishings.

A recent flier came to me that had this theme:

"Preservation Matters: A Future for Georgia's Past"

Perhaps each of us can take that to heart when our bodies and minds get weary and recall that every effort to preserve and study our past is a gift to our future. It's our game!

Jo

Museum, Research Center open; cookbooks available for gifts

The Genealogical Museum and Research Center (GM&RC) was open during the Georgia Trust Ramble and visitors were impressed.

The group has considered charging genealogists for the use of the materials, but felt that those using the facility are more generous in making donations. Finances are a concern since the Society is now operating two facilities.

New acquisitions mean the center now has census records for 1820, 1830, 1840, 1890 and 1900.

Copies of "Tasty Treats" are still available and would make great Christmas gifts. Cost is \$10.

Even if you are not researching your family history, you are encouraged to stop at the GM&RC. With the jail cells in the back and other exhibits, there is still a lot to see. Hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2-5 p.m. While you are there, consider volunteering one afternoon a month. You are needed!

P.S. Have you seen our new sign?

Music Hall of Fame rep to present program, Monday, Oct. 25, 7:30 p.m.

A representative from the Georgia Music Hall of Fame in Macon is expected for the program of the Historical Society on Monday, Oct. 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the civic room of Washington EMC. Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting.

Also at the meeting, a report will be given on the very successful Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation Ramble which occurred Oct. 15-16, and on the opening of the Brown House Museum which occurred during the Kaolin Festival.

Signs have been placed at each end of the 200 block of North Harris Street designating it "Silk Stocking Street" and at the corners of the Old City Cemetery, identifying it. The City of Sandersville implemented this project with the encouragement of the Society. We hope to mark historic districts next.

The Historical Society now operates two museums: The Brown House Museum is now the main site for the operation of the Society. Its address is 268 North Harris Street, Sandersville, and phone number is (912) 552-1965. The Old Jail Museum is now the Genealogical Museum and Research Center, and its address is 129 Jones Street, Sandersville, with the phone number (912) 552-6965. Both open Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2-5 p.m.

The Driving Brochure has been updated and a new order is in. A completely new brochure for the Charles E. Choate Exhibit is complete, and Warthen brochures have been reordered.

Upcoming Workshops:

Planned by Georgia Historical Society (912) 651-2125

- Spreading the News: Newsletters, Book Publishing and Websites. Saturday, Oct. 30. Jasper. \$20 includes lunch.

-Don't Let Them Become Extinct: Basic Collections Preservation. Saturday, Nov. 13. Atlanta. \$20 includes lunch.

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 and Tommy Walker

African-American Heritage - Katie S. Poole

Brown House and History Book Chair - Mary Alice Jordan

Cemetery Chair - Glenda Ruth Johnson

Genealogy Chair - Amanda Logue

Historic Sites/Districts - Adam Martin

Hospitality - Gladys Spight

Living History - open

March to the Sea - Johnny Wilbanks

Museum Chair - Mary Alice Jordan

Program Chair - Deborah Rhodes



Oct. 1999

Brown House opens to large Kaolin, Ramble crowds

by **Mary Alice Jordan**

At long last the Brown House is open to the public with a new name, "The Brown House Museum". The week of the Kaolin Festival we had 200-300 visitors and more than 300 the following weekend from the Georgia Trust Ramble.

For over nine years the restoration has progressed in phases, thanks to many wonderful people who have contributed including: a great sponsor, Dr. Charlie Ouzts of Atlanta, the Society Flea Markets, the Pilot Club Christmas Strolls and some grants. It has been a long and interesting road. Many groups through the years have seen the house in various stages of disrepair. The grounds were overgrown, bees were in the chimneys and ghosts were perhaps living there. The Living History Encampments have brought a real sense of history.

Our first contractor was Billy Veal, who completed the outside restoration before his tragic accident. Van Dollar and his men have worked with us on the inside, helping in more ways than can be named, taking a special interest in the work.

The Brown House Restoration Committee was appointed Oct. 1989 with Cecil Hodges as chairman, Patricia Mathis as secretary, Nancy Tarbutton, Paul Thiele, Billy Veal, Lewis West and Mary Alice Jordan, who became chairman in 1993. Loretha Thiele joined the group in 1996. Also serving a portion of the time were Frances Bateman, George Lyons and Glynn Robinson. It has been a fine and faithful committee.

A "want" became a reality in late summer when Benny Stephen completed the great front driveway entrance with special thanks to Paul Thiele. The finely done handicap ramp at the back was made possible by Cecil Hodges. Our grounds are being enhanced by Lewis and Bob West.

We have recently received some very special gifts: an Empire sideboard that belonged to Mrs. Iris Warren was given by her daughter, Mrs. Iris Warren Giller; a china cabinet that belonged to Mr. and Mrs. James Jordan was given by their

daughter, Mrs. Jerri Jordan Waldorf; and an 1828 mahogany and rosewood square piano and several other great items were given by Charlie Ouzts.

The Brown House Museum will be open Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, 2-5 p.m. and at other times for groups by appointment.

Volunteering as hostesses are: Thelma Avant, Suzanne Van Loo, Faye Upchurch, Hilda Etheridge, Loretta Cato, Louise Chambers, Carolyn Marchman, Echlyn Haynes, Isabel Snyder, Betty Kicklighter, Edna Lewis, Peggy Wallace, Glenda Ruth Johnson, Pat Bryant, Doris Griffeth, Wylene Sparks. Also helping are: Martha Armstrong, Gladys Spight, Mary Jean Moore, Shirley Hodges, Patricia Mathis, Rosemary Carter, Barbara Sheppard, Paula Bryan, Loretha Thiele, Ann Williams, Frances Holmes and Ann Smith. My heartfelt thanks for this fine group.

We are grateful to the Riddleville Silver Joy Club for the display of handiwork and postcards which had been mailed to Chalker, Georgia.

Committee plans local March to Sea

by **Johnny Wilbanks**

The Georgia "Sherman's March to the Sea" project failed to be nominated for Y2K recognition.

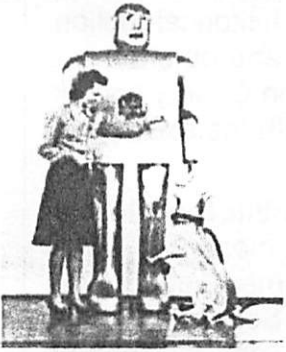
However, for the millennium, a March to the Sea will be planned for Washington County and as many neighboring counties who will participate. The Georgia Horse Council will be assisting us with this. We are hoping to have our March to the Sea become part of our Y2K Brown House event with the local 49th Georgia reenactor group.

**Society Program Meeting
Monday, Oct. 25, 7:30 p.m. - EMC Civic Room**

Washington County Historical Society
Post Office Box 6088
Sandersville, Georgia 31082

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit Number 2
Sandersville, GA 31082

Dr. & Mrs. Osgood Bateman (L)
309 Warthen St.
Sandersville, GA 31082



If you would like to learn more about the exhibit coming to the Brown House, type in this web address and find out!
www.yesterdaystomorrow.org



BROWN HOUSE MUSEUM UPDATE

by: Mary Alice Jordan

We are excited about having the Smithsonian Museum Traveling Exhibit entitled: "YESTERDAY'S TOMORROWS: Past Visions of the American Future", at the Museum in October.

Jo Cummings is doing a fine job of leadership in our preparation for this exhibit. We are grateful to Dr. Jack Sterrett for his help, as well as Linda Walker, Bobby Garrett, Shirley Godin, Shaketha Adams, Peggy Phillips, Sharon Ivey, and Patty Zaenglein.

The Opening day for the exhibit is Saturday, October 6 from 2 to 4 p.m. At 3 p.m. there will be a program of music and fun on the front porch, and the Girl Scouts will serve punch and cookies. There will be a contest of homemade robot costumes for children 10 years and under. The Museum will be open Monday through Friday from 2 to 5 p.m. The Museum will be open on parade day as well. Appointments for groups may be made for the mornings until 2p.m. by calling Mary Alice Jordan at 478-552-2963. We need more volunteer help during this time.

We are saddened by the recent death of Mr. R.M. Brown, III in Texas. He was a descendant of the Brown family that owned the Brown House, and he lived part of his growing up years in the house. We sent flowers to his service from the Historical Society and the Brown House Museum.

The Historical Society is 25 busy years old, and the Brown House Museum is a special accomplishment of which we can be justly proud!

GENEALOGY RESEARCH CENTER AND OLD JAIL MUSEUM UPDATE

by: Loretta Cato

The shelved books in our research library have been classified using the Dewey decimal system and should be a great help to our researchers. We extend thanks to our library committee for this project and special thanks to JoAnn Garner for her many hours of research and computer skills making index cards, spine labels, etc.

The Family Tree Maker computer program has been installed on our computer for researchers. Amanda Logue has donated several CD's on Washington and surrounding counties, which include some births, marriages, census records and military records of US Soldiers 1784-1811.

The Memorial Room for Mrs. Elizabeth Newsom will be available to visitors during Open House on July 23 from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M. Nonie Veal, with the cooperation of Mrs. Elizabeth's family, has collected for display a large assortment of memorabilia for the room.

We are accepting Washington County family histories and updates on families in the Cotton to Kaolin History Book. The deadline for submitting family histories for publication in the new book has been set for Aug. 31. Please contact Amanda Logue on the web site, write or call the Research Center for help.

Grace Womble has donated a copy of the book, *The Union Baptist Church and Its Families of Washington County GA*, to the Genealogy Research Center.

To supplement the Smithsonian exhibit:

Local clubs, organizations, and businesses are invited to prepare exhibits relating to their "Yesterdays, Todays and Tomorrows." Contact Mary Alice Jordan at 478-552-2963.

Programs on the exhibit can be arranged by contacting Jo Cummings at 478-552-5030.