

Washington County Historical Society

P.O. Box 6088, Sandersville, Georgia 31082

Brown House Museum
268 North Harris Street
Sandersville, Ga. 31082
Phone (912) 552-1965

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

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Newsletter

April 2000

GA Trust Honors Brown House and Mary Alice Jordan

We are very excited and gratified over the award from the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation given to the Historical Society for the Brown House "Excellence in Restoration." We have also received an award from the Georgia Historical Society for the Brown House restoration. All the long years of struggle melt away with these awards. I am especially grateful for, and humbled by, my personal achievement award.

Heritage Day for Brentwood second grades included the Brown House where they listened to stories of the house and had lunch on the back porch. This was repeated for the fifth grades on another day. On the grounds, Johnny Wilbanks and others added history of the Civil War soldiers. We will have third and fourth graders from several schools on April 26.

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation consisting of representatives from each county in the CSRA Regional Development Center, will meet at the Brown House on May 3. On May 20, the house will bloom with Flower Show done by the Town and Country Garden Club.

We welcome three new hostesses for the house: Mary Jean Moore, Shirley Roberts, and Linda Walker. Many thanks Joe Lewis who contributed his labor to re-upholster a desk chair; and to Lewis West for funding an initial grounds clean-up.

Mary and Jack Shurling have given a pair of World War I Navy pants and a muffler worn by Jack's father, Butler Shurling, to the Brown House Museum. We are grateful for these items to add to our collection for the War Room.

Please share with us any stories of Civil War incidents including places in the county where any soldiers were.

From my corner...

Mary Alice Jordan

We all know that horseracing has its "Triple Crown" and now we have the restoration "Triple Crown!" The Georgia Trust recognized the Brown House restoration for "Excellence in Restoration" and the Georgia Historical Society gave it the First Place Award in Restoration, and now Mary Alice herself was honored by the Trust for her outstanding achievement recognizing her contributions as editor of "Cotton to Kaolin" as chairman of the Brown House restoration and for her leadership in the Society since its beginning. She has with dedication worked long to preserve and share our history. *Well deserved honors for stars in our crown.*

Another star in preserving our history, my mother, Elizabeth P. Newson, was also honored for her work recently. March is Women's History Month. Each year a different field is selected. The Georgia Women's History Month Committee chose Historic Preservation as their theme this year to recognize women achievers across the state. At a wonderful ceremony in Atlanta on March 15, about 15 women who had worked and died were recognized for their "pioneer efforts." Then about 60 living women walked forward for awards, followed by 3 high school women who had written winning essays on the value of historic preservation. Thus we had the past, present and the future.

Strick and I worked hard to collect evidence of Mama's activities; it made me know how quickly papers can wander away. I value anew the purpose of societies such as ours.

Jo Cummings, President

*Please note change in next meeting date....May 1,
7:30 P.M. at Washington EMC.
Program is Sara Gordon on Flannery O'Connor*

Website Update

The Washington County GENWeb website is up and running again. There have been quite a few changes, the biggest is Amanda Brown Logue is the County Coordinator for the Wa Co site. Amanda is very excited about the possibilities and the chance to serve Washington County. The site is accessible to anyone with internet access and she gets e-mail from all over the US about the page. What we have here is a crucial link to Genealogists and Historians everywhere!

The site is still in the early stages and new things will be added in the weeks to come. Currently, the page has space for family histories, cemeteries, military info and Civil War rosters and information as well as a GenConnect Board set up to handle queries, wills, obits, Bible records and the like. Amanda hopes to add a "virtual tour" of historic sites around the county. She encourages everyone to contribute some sort of information for the page, as it is only as useful as the data that it contains. Meanwhile, relax, kick off your shoes and visit:

[Http://www.rootsweb.com/~gowashin/Washington/index.html](http://www.rootsweb.com/~gowashin/Washington/index.html)

Genealogy Research Center Committee Update

Recent improvements to the Center's building and grounds are: new sidewalks, reroofing, repair of porch and new identification sign on front.

New research materials received include six volumes of Time Life Civil War books, and genealogy material from legal notices of early Ga. Newspapers.

The Genealogy Committee is compiling a book on the memories of yesterday. Send submissions to P.O. Box 6088, Sandersville.
Grace Womble

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Post Office Box 6088
Sandersville, Georgia 31082

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Mr. & Mrs. Ray Hollingsworth (L)
301 N. Harris St
Sandersville, GA 31082

Robert and Pam Lanier are inviting interested Washington County people to visit the two houses on their Shoulderbone Plantation north of Sparta on Sunday afternoon, June 4. The houses will be open from 3:30 – 5:30 for visitation on a drop in basis. The Laniers will serve refreshments. We are cooperating with the Laniers in making this gracious invitation known to local people and encouraging them to participate. More details will follow.

One of the houses is known as the “Evans House” moved from the site now occupied by the branch office of the Geo. D. Warthen branch office. It has been restored and recently decorated by Bonnie Dowling of Macon. The main house is of Greek Revival design, has stately, two-story columns on the portico, and is about the same age of the Evans house. In 1988, the Georgia Trust honored the Laniers’ painstaking restoration with an Outstanding Restoration award. Dowling also redecorated this house recently.

Cemetery Report

Debra Rhodes

Ramus Freeman

recently published an index to Zeta Cemetery in Tennesse. Individual copies are \$15. Books may be purchased at the

Tennille City Hall where a copy will remain on file.

Plans to restore the Tennille Women’s Missionary Society Cemetery on Copeland Road are progressing. A group of citizens met on Saturday, April 8th for the purpose of identifying unmarked graves, cleaning, and discussing restoration proposals. This project has begun to generate tremendous interest from the public!

A tax deductible contribution can be made through the Washington County Historical Society.

Confederate Memorial Day will be observed with a candlelight memorial service in the OLD CITY CEMETERY with the program beginning at 7:30 p.m. This memorial service is to honor our Confederate Veterans who fought for a cause in which they believed. Jointly sponsored by the 49th Georgia Reenactors and Major Mark Newman Camp #1602 Sons of Confederate Veterans.

You are invited to a Confederate Memorial Service to pre-serve the history and to honor the sacrifice of the late Rabun Wright Hall. At his gravesite in the Hall/Wood Cemetery atop Hall's Hill, a Confederate memorial marker will be placed. The memorial program will be led by the Johnson Greys Camp #1688 Sons of Confederate Veterans. Please join us May 13 at 2:30 p.m.

From the desk of Steve Loncrier on...*The March to the Sea Heritage Trail Regional History Committee*

The first meeting will be held on Saturday, April 22nd, 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the historic Old Governor’s Mansion in Milledgeville. The second meeting will be held May 13th from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. in Milledgeville with location to be announced, later.

Lunch will be available for all committee representatives at both meetings. Local representatives should notify Steve ASAP if they will be coming.

Please begin to think about the various sites related to the Civil War era in our county. This information should include but not be limited to sites related to Sherman’s March to the Sea.” By “era” we mean the years immediately prior to and/or following the war years (1861-1865) if such sites have a connection to the Civil War period.. Such sites might include homes, plantations, depots, cemeteries, churches, schools, ferries, bridges, railroads, factories, mills, ruins and of course battlefields. Use your imagination!!

You can contact Steve at (706)868-8403 or slongcrier@hotmail.com