



Washington County Historical Society

P.O. Box 6088, Sandersville, Georgia 31082

Brown House Museum
Washington County Genealogical Research Center & Old Jail Museum

Volume 23, Issue 8 Fall 2020

Upcoming

- The October 26th Membership Meeting will be an online experience!
- Next Membership Meeting: January 25, 2021
- The Museums are open with COVID-19 precautions in place!

President's Message

Dear Friends,

As some of you may know, my home was built in the mid 1890's. Given its age, it is no surprise that it has undergone several renovations since the property first became our family home in the 1940's. One of these renovations was orchestrated by my parents, Jack and Jane Brooker in the 1960's. During their project, they were delighted to find the original plans for the house carefully tucked away underneath the front staircase where they had been placed at some point by an unknown person for safe keeping. These hand-drawn plans showed not only the original interior layout, but also featured several exterior drawings of the design from side and front views.

I vaguely remember seeing these plans once as a child when I was in either 5th or 6th grade and was assigned some type of project on Sandersville history. I wrote about my family's home and included several photocopies of the original plans. Once the report was finished, this treasure was again carefully stored away or so we thought.

In 2004, my wife and I became the owners of the property and began our own set of renovations. Much like my parents in the 1960's, we were thrilled to find the original house plans carefully tucked away – this time in a sideboard drawer. We immediately decided to have these framed but were saddened to find the page that included the drawings of the front view of our home with the original veranda were missing – somehow lost forever. The center section of the veranda, which ran the length of the front of our home, had been removed by my grandfather, O.J. May, in the 1940's. The remaining side porches were removed by my parents at some point in the 1980's after my father grew weary of waging the never-ending battle against time and rot. While we are fortunate enough to have one single photograph of the side of our home from not long after construction was completed, there are, to my knowledge, no existing photographs of our home from the front during the time in which both the front veranda and side porches were still intact.

Not long after we finished our own renovations, we were asked to open our home during the Pilot Club's Christmas Stroll. It was during this time that Mrs. Mary Alice Jordan presented us with a gift that meant far more than any package that was under our tree that year. She, being a true historian at heart, had saved a copy of my elementary school project from so many years before. Within this report were copies of the missing page of plans – a page I had only a vague memory of seeing. Mrs. Mary Alice with her incredible foresight and keen eye toward preservation had unknowingly given us back the precious gift of part of the history of our home.

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President's Message - Continued

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Besides the gift of the house plan, Mrs. Mary Alice also sparked in me an understanding and an appreciate for preserving the treasures – big and small – that tell the story of who we are as a community. This spark that began with the desire to know more about my family home has become a passion to not only know more about our county's history, but to find ways to preserve and to share that history with generations to come. We, as Mrs. Mary Alice unknowingly taught me, must become the keepers of our own treasures, memories, and histories or like the original missing page of house plans will be lost forever.

David Brooker

President of the Washington County Historical Society

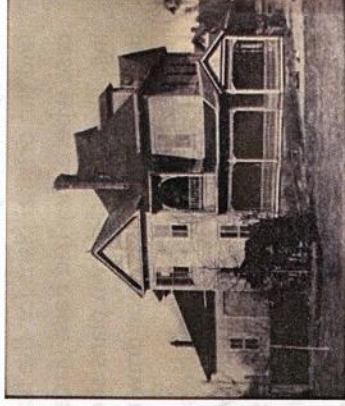
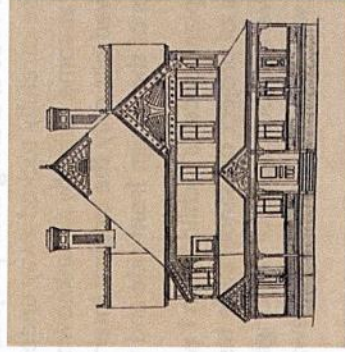
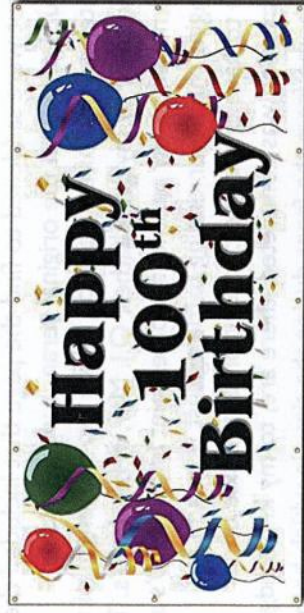


Photo 1: my elementary school report, Photo 2: original plan drawing of house, Photo 3: oldest known existing photo – side view facing north, c1900s, Photo 4: current photo – side view facing south.



Mrs. Mary Alice Jordan

With the quiet grace, flawless manners, and iron will that typify ladies of her generation, Mrs. Mary Alice Jordan is a name spoken with the utmost respect among us historians and preservationists. Over the course of many years, she helped to lay the solid foundation upon which the Washington County Historical Society, The Brown House Museum and the Washington County Genealogy Research Center rest and paved the way for future work to continue.

We are honored, on this occasion of her 100th year, to wish Mrs. Mary Alice Jordan not only the happiest of birthdays, but also to say thank you for her foresight and dedication to preserving the history of the place we call home.

Lonnie Davis to Give Facebook Presentation for the Washington County Historical Society October 26th meeting *Slavery in the United States*

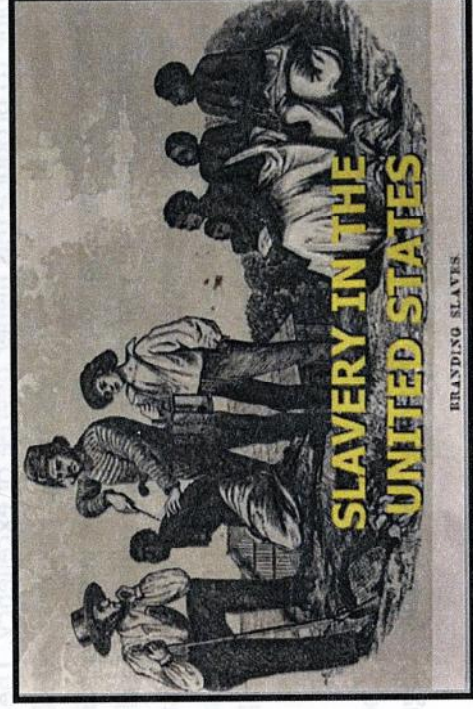
If you have attended a talk by Lonnie Davis in Sandersville in the last few years, you already know that his historical information is fascinating, and his presentation is genuine and charming. Mr. Davis, Cultural Resources Specialist/Historian at the Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park in Macon, has spoken to the historical society, the Sandersville Rotary Club, the Occupation of Sandersville Civil War Reenactment, and to local church congregations. But you needn't fear that you have heard the upcoming subject matter, because he has researched multiple time periods in American history pertaining to our own region. He has written and printed booklets on each topic.

The title of Mr. Davis's talk on October 26th will be Slavery in the United States. In the introduction to his pamphlet by this name, he says, "It is now time that we quit avoiding the discussion of these topics and start having meaningful dialogues as a nation." He says he realizes that in these difficult times this is a touchy subject.

His research shows the transport of Africans as slaves to the Americas began in the 1600s. You might be surprised by the destinations and numbers of Africans who were forcibly shipped to the New World.



Lonnie Davis



This talk by Mr. Davis will give an objective account of the very long and complex era of slavery in the United States from the 1600s through the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863 to the end of the Civil War in 1865.

Lonnie Davis's talk will premiere on the Washington County Historical Society Facebook page on the evening of October 26th at 7:00 p.m. After that time, it may be viewed anytime. Please join us and invite your friends and colleagues.

facebook.com/Washington-County-Historical-Society-Georgia-143375919056002

Facebook page to view the Facebook Premier video at 7:00 p.m.

Once completed, the video is viewable from the beginning at any time.

You do not need a Facebook account!

CHAUTAUQUA

By: Mary Murphy

And so, it came to an end. Life would return to normal in Sandersville. The long-anticipated Chautauqua had made its debut and left, leaving those who had attended with feelings of exhilaration, contentment and the anticipation of the next annual Chautauqua.

The entertainment for the last night

of the Chautauqua was a grand concert by Lilly's Orchestra, assisted by the Chicago Glee Club and LA Dell-Scott Concert Company. With the assistance of the Chicago Glee Club performing practically every day, the musical entertainment appealed to all ages in the audience.

A review appearing in the June 1, 1905 Sandersville Herald applauded the glee club. The review transcribed as it appeared from the newspaper:

"The Chicago Glee Club without a doubt stands among the best male quartettes this country has ever produced. The fact each voice is particularly adapted to the part it assumes and the membership of the club has been so long unchanged; combine to produce this higher degree of excellency. The volume of the voices is such as to fill the largest auditorium, while the pianissimo passages are so Hue:mm vxH DU and harmonious as to hold the audience in breathless attention. The repertoire of the club is very extensive and comprises the best of all classes of music written for male voices. Many of the selections used by the club are written or arranged especially for it. Standard music, both sacred and secular, is delivered in a true artistic manner. While the humor is original and refreshing a nil at. The same time dignified and elevating. Songs in action lend spice to the program while sailor songs in costume lead one to believe he is listening to the real "Jolly Jack Tar."

The reviews of the Sandersville Herald described the week of entertainment:

"Sandersville's first Chautauqua closed triumphantly Saturday night of last week. The public took an enthusiastic interest in course from crowds assembled each session enjoy the double daily programs so carefully arranged for their edification and merriment.

The Chautauqua was a success in every particularly: socially, intellectually and financially. Socially, because almost everyone was diverted from its regular routine channel, made to shake off some of their seriousness and to partake of some of the sunshine of cheerfulness, commingle with friends and visitors and in the sweet cyclo-rama of forgetfulness and enjoy life.

Visitors have learned to love us and will advertise favorably abroad, Sandersville has taken her place in the forefront with other progressive towns of her class in the state and will henceforth maintain a creditable place.

That the course was a success as an intellectual stimulus is evidenced by the fact that none who attended are willing to disclaim against it, but all concede that every mind touched by its influence is broader and brighter and every soul deeper and stronger.

First - Annual - Session SANDERSVILLE CHAUTAUQUA



CHICAGO GLEE CLUB.

The Chicago Glee Club, which has been organized for the purpose of giving the public a high class of musical entertainment, will appear at the Sandersville Chautauqua on June 11-17, 1905. The club is composed of four members, all of whom are well known in the musical world. They will give a variety of songs, both sacred and secular, and will also perform instrumental music. The club is well known for its high standard of excellence, and its appearance at the Sandersville Chautauqua is a great treat for the public.

♣ JUNE 11 = 17, 1905. ♣

A BRILLIANT ARRAY OF TALENT. A WEEK OF RARE PLEASURE.
Hotels, Boarding Houses and Private Homes will Entertain at Special Rates. Low Rates on all Railroads in the State.
Don't Forget The Date, June 11-17. Watch For Program. Everybody Invited.

♣ COME! ♣ COME! ♣ COME!

Chautauqua

(Continued from page 4)

Critically analyzed and interrogate we venture the prophecy that each individual will admit they feel less selfish and more substantially fixed in their purpose and that thru purposes, hopes and lines add their purposes, hopes of endeavor are clearly on a more exalted plane.

While the stock subscribed will be refunded to the stock holder with perhaps a liberal dividend when all of the expenses are paid. Seems to appear phenomenal to people with Chautauqua experience considering the fact that this was Sandersville's first effort nether less such is the case. The management will only owe a debt of gratitude to the good people of the local public for their generous support."

The Chautauqua movement continued to flourish during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The travelling shows provided education combined with various forms of entertainment consisting of concerts, lectures, plays, magic shows., etc. These followed other programs that were fashioned after those performed at the Chautauqua Institution of western New York.

"The Chautauqua Movement is considered the largest event that has ever existed in the U.S. and Canada. President Teddy Roosevelt once called the Chautauqua "The most American thing in America." It was live entertainment at its finest. It was always set in an ideal place, such as the sea shore, trees, or in a park. They performed in towns in large tents or large barns when they could accommodate them. "And when they played, all normal activity stopped as each town's citizen dedicated a week of their lives to learn, to be entertained and to join in community."

That is exactly what the citizens of Sandersville and the surrounding towns did. They took advantage of this occasion to enjoy such a diversion as the Chautauqua was bringing to their town. Some had been fortunate to attend the annual Chautauqua in Dublin and knew what to expect; others did not. It would certainly be an enlightening time for all, young and old. For the educated and the uneducated. Everyone would have an opportunity to experience exposure to the knowledge that there was actually something beyond the county horizon.

The cultural, religious, and political education movement that began in the 1870's was considered by some as the first form of mass culture in North America. Scholars credited it with "sowing seeds" of liberal thought in the U.S. and Canada.

"It holds an honored place in cultural history."

African American Committee - Eddie Mae Miller Gilmore

Blessings

The members of The Healing Temple ministries of Sandersville, Georgia, where the pastor is Bishop Eddie Mincey, Sr., would like to thank the Macedonia Church in Grovetown, Georgia their pastor, members, and especially Mr. and Mrs. Eric and Keila Tucker from Evans, Georgia for their thoughtfulness and generosity in donating the boxes of fresh fruits and vegetables they have given to our church.

Mr. Eric Tucker is the son of Deacon George and Iris Tucker of Sandersville, Georgia. Our Church members as well as the local community have been blessed by their generosity. We would like to say thank you, it truly means a lot to all of us here. May God continue to bless the Macedonia church congregation as they continue to bless others around them.



Brown House Museum - Frances Veal

We are happy to announce that the Brown House Museum (BHM) was reopened to visitors on Thursday October 1st. It will be open on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday and visitors are required to wear masks, which will be provided if they do not have their own. Sanitizer is also provided.

During the past seven months the volunteers, employees and Christopher Kitchens have worked to organize some of the photographs and historical material we have. David Brooker has supervised this work. He has also acquired filing cabinets and other storage cabinets to organize the materials.

David has repeatedly told me how amazed he is at material we have collected for the exhibits at the BHM. He and his wife, Anne, have agreed to take over the operation of the BHM. I will continue to work with the volunteers and find additional ones as needed.

Several years ago, Amy Bauer, from Goldsboro N.C. contacted me about her work with the African American soldiers who joined a regiment in Goldsboro and participated in the Civil War. I plan to meet with her soon and view the work she has done and add those from Washington County to the lists that Adam Adolphus and Lonnie Davis have found.

Some Civil War books belonging to my husband, Billy Veal, are at the BHM and can be purchased at \$5 for paperback and \$10 for hard back. Proceeds will go to the BHM.

A big thank you to everyone who has helped at the BHM while I have been director. I hesitate to mention names for fear of leaving out someone. I want to thank Ray Irwin who helped me organize the art exhibits and especially with the Civil War in Washington County Art exhibit. I hope she will continue to use her expertise with exhibits.

Genealogy Research Center and Old Jail Museum - Loretta Cato

The GRC has had a very full summer of cleaning, organizing, discovering, and laughing. Before anyone came back to work, Essie got bored: when we tried to use the printer in June, we discovered she had changed the language settings to Spanish. We finally fixed the language settings (after half an hour on the phone with several people trying to find the language settings.) We also found a paper that finally explained why the British drive on the left side of the road: knights used to hold their swords in their right hands and therefore rode with the right side of their bodies facing the road so they could attack if necessary. A will wherein a man left his wife "her lover and the knowledge that [he] wasn't the fool she thought [he] was..." made us laugh as we filed it away.

All that adventure and discovery took place during the extra time we gained from things slowing from the virus. We did continue most of our ordinary activities, though, opening for eight people from Florida, Hephzibah, Wrightsville, North Carolina, and our own Sandersville. We even had a reporter from WXAV down in Savannah come take a tour, though she was mostly in the area for the Warthen jail.

The furniture here has shifted with the cleaning, as well. The family files have spread into another filing cabinet, and all the cabinets in the library now match. A new cabinet, which holds all the African American files, now sits in the corner of the research room between the desk moved from the jail and the table purchased at the Thiele House yard sale. The three shelves of out-of-state books in the office have been moved to allow more relevant books to be available, and in an effort to protect both workers and guests from the still-spreading virus, acrylic shields stand on the counter in the library and across the table in the research room.

All in all, despite the slowness that COVID-19 has brought, the GRC has been as busy as ever. It's been a wonderful summer for getting inventory back in order so that everything is ready when guests start returning, and we looking forward to returning to our regular schedule!

We would like to thank the Transylvania Club for donating three antique chairs from the Shelnutt House. They look very well in our Parlor, and many of our guests have complimented us on their appearance! One of our guests, Mr. Herman Lattimore, a gentleman for Wadley, has graciously offered to donate a piano to the Museum. Although we cannot accept his generous offer, if anyone is interested in his instrument, please let us know, and will let him know!

Sandersville School - Shaun Veal



The Sandersville School Building Authority received a \$7,500.00 grant from the Washington EMC Foundation to aid with further repairs and upgrades to the auditorium. The bulk of said project is being funded by a OneGeorgia grant and a Fox Theatre Institute grant.

To learn more about the revitalization project and the ever simmering Kaolin Museum project, please contact the SSBA chair Ed Jordan.

Any assistance to bring the historic auditorium back into service for the community is appreciated.

SSBA board members Shaun Veal, Gene Renfro, and Randy Mayberry with Chad Davis of the Washington EMC.

Membership Report - Alisa Norris Scott

Please remember that your 2020 membership was due in January regardless of when you paid your membership in 2019. Thank you to those that have paid dues for 2020 and to those that have made donations. To pay dues for 2020, please send in your payment with the membership renewal form on the back of the newsletter.

Membership Listings

Life Members:

Listed only in January letter:

New Members:

Humphries, Colin
Moore, Dottie
Witter Jr, Edward & Sally

Annual Renewals

Adams, Janice Boyd
Avant, David & Sandra D
Axtell, Lisa E
Black, Bill & Susan
Brookins Jr, C.V.
Brown, Ted & Jody
Carson, Jeanne K
Cowan, Mike & Linda
Davis, James Mason & Rose Maria
Dean, Mickey
Durden, Clarence & Dianne
Edwards, Patricia
Flanagan, Randy & Rita
Fowler, Zachary & Anne
Franklin, Ben
Franklin, Michael A
Frost, Vicki West
Fuller, Katherine & Donald
Haynes, Gary & Faye

Lwowski, Patsy

Martin, Anita

McCoy, Katye

McMaster, Billy & Faye

McMaster, Paul

Mercer, Sandy & Judy

Miller, Eddie Mae

Moore, Mary Jean

Murphy, Mary

Neely, Emory & Freida

Norris, William D. & Cathern

O'Connor, Peggy Wood

Ouzts, Ben

Pate, Franklin

Pfeil, Brady & Pat

Prichard, Philip M & Anne D

Salter, Ben & Faye

Scott, Alisa Norris

Smith, Otis & Anne

Smith, Ricky & Deborah

Storm, Bruce & Carol

Uslan, Jim & Louise

Veal, Tony & Marlene Garrard

West, Jeanne Lacy

Wiley, Dale & Lorna

Williford, Stacy & Renee

Young, Roger M.

Zaenglein, David

CVB Industrial Contracting Inc

Adams, Janice Boyd

Boyd, Odessie C.

Brookins Jr, C.V.

Crisp, Dale & Leslie

Durden, Clarence & Dianne

Fowler, Zachary & Anne

Fuller, Katherine & Donald

Lwowski, Patsy

Mathis, Dianne

Ouzts, Ben

Prichard, Philip M & Anne D

Salter, Ben & Faye

Sheppard, Barbara

Storm, Bruce & Carol

Twombly, Charles & Sheila

Wright, Brian & Jennifer

Brown House Donations:

Wiley, Dale & Lorna

Technology Donations:

Black's Insurance Agency

Geo. D. Warthen Bank

Crisp, Dale & Leslie

May, E.K. & Deborah

Mercer Jr., Sanders G.

Rawlings Jr., William

Smith, Deborah B.

Storm, Bruce & Carol

John Barker, Jr.

West, Robert S.

Clifford A. Bell

Fowler, Zachary & Anne

Wade Brown

Veal, Frances

Pat Bryant

Twombly, Charles & Sheila

John Grice

Veal, Frances

Benjamin J. Tarbutton, Jr.

Veal, Frances

West, Robert S.

George Thomas "Tommy" Walker, Jr.

Fowler, Zachary & Anne

Veal, Frances

West, Robert S.

Brown House Memorials:

Clifford A. Bell

Veal, Frances

Technology Memorials:

Benjamin J. Tarbutton, Jr.

Helton, Stacer & Pam

Peggy Veal

Hall, Randy & Ellen

Condolences to the families of our lifetime members: Clifford Bell (July 2, 2020)

General Fund Donations: General Fund Memorials:



WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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SANDERSVILLE, GEORGIA 31082

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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info@wacohistorical.org

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Old Jail Museum

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Sandersville, Georgia 31082
Phone: (478) 552-6965
genealogy@wacohistorical.org

wacohistorical.org
occupationofsandersville.org

Non-Profit Organization

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The Washington County Historical Society
would like to thank

The Geo. D. Warthen Bank
for sponsoring this quarter's newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THE OCTOBER 26, 2020 WILL BE VIRTUAL VIA FACEBOOK

Mail form below and your dues to:
Washington County Historical Society
P.O. Box 6088
Sandersville, Georgia 31082



2020 Membership

Please print your information.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

2020 Membership Level:

_____ Individual, \$15

_____ Family, \$20

_____ Student (High), \$10

_____ Corporate, \$50

_____ Donation, \$ _____

Membership for 2020 is January to December