



# Guale News

APRIL 1991

VOLUME 11, NO. 3

## FERNANDINA RAMBLE

Saturday, April 13th, 9:00 a.m.

Meet at the old Winn Dixie parking lot in Kingsland next to the Methodist Church.

Put on those walking shoes and join Historical Society members and guests and head south for a trip to Camden's neighbor Fernandina for a day of exploring.

The day will begin with a visit to Fort Clinch at the mouth of the St. Marys River where your imagination will take you back to Federal occupation during the War Between the States. (Admission \$2.00 driver, \$ .50 each passenger.)

Then it's on to Shoneys just down the road for lunch (Dutch Treat).

After lunch, on to the jailhouse. Fernandina's old jail at the corner of Cedar and 3rd Streets is now one of the area's outstanding museums. (Admission \$5.00). Here after a slide/lecture, a guide will accompany members around the museum with its collection of artifacts and photographs depicting this port city's history, much closely tied with Camden County.

The remainder of the afternoon is your choice. You might want to take a tour of the town, browse through the many shops along Centre Street or check out the beach.

If you have any questions call Program Chairman Henry Williams, who has so carefully put this trip together, at 576-5421.

Remember, Kingsland at 9:00 a.m. sharp!

## FORT CLINCH

Fort Clinch is named for Camden County's own General Duncan Clinch, a planter at Refuge Plantation on the Satilla River, Indian fighter and politician, as well as son-in-law of John H. McIntosh.

An onsite museum gives the history of the fort, as well as the surrounding area. Construction of this well preserved brick fort guarding the mouth of the St. Marys River began in 1847 under the supervision of Robert E. Lee. Although not completed at the beginning of the Civil War, it was occupied by the Third Regiment of Florida Volunteers.

Soon thereafter, Federal troops captured it and remained in control of the fort and Amelia Island until the close of the war. Shortly after the war it was deactivated, but was put into use once again during the Spanish American War.

In World War I, troops were stationed there for coastal defense and training. In 1935, the City of Fernandina and the Florida Park Service purchased the fort and surrounding land. During World War II, the Army used sections of the fort for a radio and guard detail. Other buildings in the park were used as headquarters for a beach patrol.

A bit of Fort Clinch trivia - 4,498,198 bricks were used in its construction, many coming from the St. Marys brickyard.

## A GREAT LADY

Guale Historical Society members recently honored Dot Barker, who has worked so patiently and diligently year after year, to preserve everything worth preserving in the Historic District of St. Marys, by placing a tree in her honor at Orange Hall. She is one who has never given up in the struggle to ensure that this historic structure will be protected and become the showplace that it is today. Thank you Dot for your dedication!

## ORANGE HALL

More and more trees are being added to the grounds. If you are interested in honoring someone or remembering some event by planting a tree, contact Linda Love at 882-4412.

When did you last visit Orange Hall? The second floor shows the decorator touch of Linda Love and Marjorie Waters who are still covering all antique and junque shops in the area. If you

haven't seen, you must - for it has the lived-in look of a fine old home.

The vintage clothing and recipe book projects are still moving ahead. The deadline for recipes has passed, but if you have a very special one, you might slip it in by calling Marjorie at 673-6110.

## BRYAN-LANG HISTORICAL LIBRARY

If you are looking for some unique notepaper, try the library. A sketch of the old Jeffersonton Church, no longer standing, by Kay Westberry is featured. You will remember, this church was built from the boards of the courthouse that stood on that site when the now dead town of Jeffersonton was the county seat of Camden County. \$3.50 a package.

## IN OTHER AREAS

The Georgia Historical Society's 152nd Annual Meeting will be held April 19 - 20, 1991 in Savannah. It's theme "Georgia's World War II Experience". If you would like to join the State Historical Society, individual dues are \$25.00. Mail to: Georgia Historical Society, 501 Whitaker Street, Savannah, GA 31499.

The Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center is co-sponsoring a preservation seminar on Jekyll Island May 6 - 7, 1991. If you are interested in either this or the State Historical meeting, contact John Christian at the Bryan-Lang Library (576-5601, extension 243).

Anyone having ties with McIntosh County will want to join the Lower Altamaha Historical Society. Individual dues are \$10.00. Mail to: Lower Altamaha Historical Society, P.O. Box 1405, Darien, GA 31305. Field trips of that area are made regularly with information provided by the newsletter edited by Bob Raymund.

## THE MALLETT / MALLET / MALET CONNECTION

It's too late to be involved in this great outing, but so many Camden County residents have ties to this family that you will be interested. U.S. Mallettes date to Salzburgers Gideon and Mary Mallette and Camden Countians to his great-grandson Gideon, founding minister of Ruhamah Baptist Church.

A full week of festivities were planned for the worldwide reunion beginning with celebrations at the South Carolina Salzburg settlement Puryburg. Here Pury/Mallette connection join their American cousins before moving on to Ebenezer, Georgia's Salzburger community for further activities. Corner Guale Society member Carolyn Durden for all the details.

## BOOKS OF INTEREST

Southern Genealogical Exchange Society's *Pioneers of Florida's First Coast* is now on sale. Many of this region's early settlers had first lived in Camden County and descendants can be found in both states. \$40.00 from SGES, P.O. Box 2801, Jacksonville, FL 32203.

*Laurens County, Georgia Legal Records* have now been abstracted and are due to be published in late April. Order from Allen Thomas, Box 1719, Dublin, GA 31040. Prepublication until April 15th, \$35.00 plus \$4.00 mailing. After April 15th, \$45.00 plus \$4.00 mailing.

## BORROWED FROM DNR OUTDOOR REPORT

The winter issue recognized Guale Historical Society member Carol Ruckdeschel as "Cumberland's Champion for Wildlife". The article gives her credit for her years of research to promote the protection of endangered island animals. Carol is a resident of the north end of Cumberland and according to DNR, "has almost single-handedly built the Cumberland Island Museum, a

repository for animal specimens that can be used for comparative study by researchers focusing on the island's pristine ecosystem".

The article also explains that Carol formed the first systematic survey for sea turtle strandings in the country in 1979 and continues to patrol Cumberland beach for turtle or other major marine animal strandings. In addition, she also conducts other research to promote the survival of coastal wildlife.

The Cumberland Island Museum, located at the north end, is a nonprofit corporation and is still under construction. Donations toward its completion may be sent to Box 796, St. Marys, GA 31558.

## LOOKING AHEAD

- |             |                                  |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| April 13th: | 9:00 a.m., Fernandina Trip       |
| April 14th: | Grand Opening, St. Marys Library |
| April 27th: | Crawfish Festival, Woodbine      |
| May 14th:   | Guale Historical Society Meeting |

## WHY JOIN?

If you have not joined or rejoined Guale Historical Society, think about this. Why join?

The Society was established in 1977 as an organization dedicated to the preservation of the past, while moving to the future. You can become a part of this.

As a member you will participate in exciting programs

bringing the past to life, visit historical sites and receive regular newsletters bringing an update on historical events.

You, through joining Guale Historical Society, will become a part of the historical community.

## MEMBERSHIP

These members have joined or renewed since the last newsletter was printed:

*New Members:* Bill and Claudia Blankenship; Roxie and Brandi Griffin.

*Renewals:* H.A. Bennett Family; Grayson Day Family; Sam Atkinson Family, Jacksonville; Robert Shad, Jr. Family; James Bruce Family; John Love Family; Dorothy McCaskill, St. Simons; Dot Barker; Betty Gruver, Homerville; Mary Louise Nelson, Fernandina; David Williams; Linda Wells; Jim Thomas, Fernandina; Mrs. Lewis Jones, Tallahassee; Charlton County Historical Society; Selma Bunkley, Brunswick; Iris Norton.

*Note:* Due to postage and printing increases, the dues have been raised for the first time since Guale Historical Society was established in 1977. Dues now are: Individual \$8.00; Student \$2.00; Family \$15.00.

Mail to: Treasurer Mildred Walko, 800 Margaret Street, St. Marys, GA 31558.