



# Guale News

APRIL 1992

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## RAMBLES AND RAMBLES

Mark your calendar for two **IMPORTANT** dates in Guale Historical Society Activities: Saturday, April 11 and Saturday, May 30. (There will be no May newsletter, so keep this for details.)

## RICE FESTIVAL, LIBERTY COUNTY, WOODMANSTON PLANTATION

Some Society members have visited this site, but never has such an opportunity arisen to see what went on when this was an active rice plantation back in the 18th century.

The schedule for the weekend of April 11 and 12 is full, beginning at 9:00 a.m. with Civil War Re-enactment, Tour of Site & Nature Trail, Rice Growing Demonstrations, Low Country Barbecue, and Sales of Crafts, Historic Plant Specimens, and Books.

Here are the Society plans: Saturday you and your guests meet at Henry & Bebe's house for their early morning hospitality at 8:30. Then it's off to Liberty County - plans right now are to stay on site as a group, eating lunch there. There is a fee to the Festival of \$5 per person to be paid when you reach the site, plus lunch.

Optional afternoon activities can include a trip to nearby Midway. Docents will be there as guides, and in the museum will be demonstrating quilting and cooking the an 1800s kitchen. A stroll of the church grounds and cemetery will be of interest, also. (A bit of trivia: Look for the Cozby stone - he's the Presbyterian minister with marker in St. Marys saying that he buried at Midway.)

Just east of Midway, the 1854 Dorchester Church will be open. Also farther east is located Ft. Morris at the dead town of Sunbury where a Revolutionary War Encampment will be set up and demonstrations of blacksmithing, spinning, weaving and cooking will go on throughout the day.

Remember Saturday, April 11, 8:30, Woodbine.

## A REVIEW OF WOODMANSTON PLANTATION

This plantation was established by the LeConte Family in the mid 1700s. The first house was burned by British soldiers in 1778 in retaliation for the LeContes contribution to the Patriot's cause by supplying rice to Boston when the harbor was blockaded by the British fleet.

Exotic plant culture became a part of the plantation's history in the early 1800s when Dr. Louis LeConte developed several strains of food plants (LeConte Pear for one) and was among the first to grow the then rare Camellia outside a greenhouse.

This outstanding family has played an impressive role in the country's history through their contributions, not only in botany but in the field of education and environmental issues (sons John and Joseph were founding fathers of University of California. Joseph was a charter member and Chairman of the Board of the Sierra Club.)

The plantation began its decline after the death of Louis in 1838, although some of the rare plant life could still be seen among the wild plant growth. In 1973, LeConte - Woodmanston Plantation was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

To prepare for this trip you might want to read Robert Grover's **SWEET LAND OF LIBERTY, A HISTORY OF LIBERTY COUNTY.**

## RAMBLE ALONG IN MAY

Trip to Sapelo Island is scheduled for Saturday, May 30. Members Only. Reservations must be made for the limited spaces.

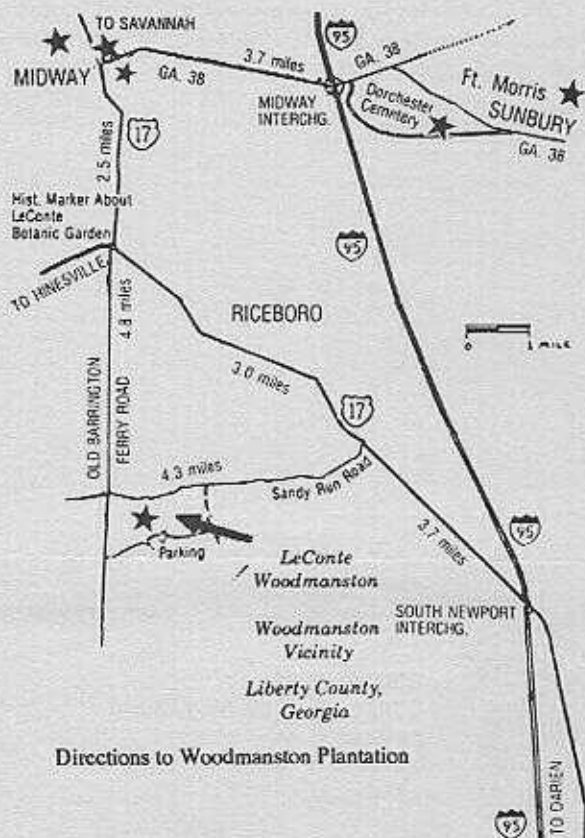
**DETAILS:** Since the group will travel by boat, everyone **MUST** be on time. Be ready to leave from Bryan-Lang Historical Library parking lot in Woodbine at 7:30 or you may meet the group at Darien Chamber of Commerce Building at the foot of bridge just east of U.S. 17 at 8:15 where group will check in. From here it's straight to dock a few miles out of Darien to catch a boat which leaves at 9:00 SHARP.

To reserve your space, send \$5.50 per person (checks made out to Henry Williams who will purchase tickets) to Henry at Box 339, Woodbine 31569 or drop them off at Bryan-Lang Historical Library or in St. Marys get them to Eloise Bailey, Box 398, St. Marys, 31558. Any questions, call Eloise at 882-4587.

Not too much walking is required since a bus is provided for the island tour. Boat returns to mainland at 1:00, and the group will then eat lunch at Archie's Restaurant. The Hog Hammock store is usually one of the stops and you can pick up a snack there or stick a pack of crackers in your shirt for a midmorning bite.

Remember to get your reservation in !!!

Readings you will find helpful before going. Buddy Sullivan's **EARLY DAYS ON THE GEORGIA TIDEWATER** or his **SAPELO: A HISTORY.** Another is **A SAPELO ISLAND HANDBOOK** produced by the University of Georgia Marine Institute.



Directions to Woodmanston Plantation

## OAK GROVE CEMETERY

The Oak Grove Cemetery Association, especially member Lucy Redden, and the City of St. Marys, along with volunteers are to be commended for a beautiful cleanup job. Many of the aged and dying plants have been removed and a deep accumulation of debris has been hauled away. Go See! A tentative ramble for the Society is planned through the cemetery this fall. Watch for details.

## LOCAL ACTIVITIES TO WATCH FOR

April 25 - Crawfish Festival, Woodbine. This has grown to be a whopper of a festival with arts and craft folks coming from all around and a GREAT parade so keep this in mind - not forgetting the great eating that takes place at noon.

May - date to be announced. Reception at Orange Hall celebrating the completion of the exterior refurbishing. If you haven't visited Orange Hall since it has been furnished, watch the newspaper for the date. You will want to see what has happened. Another large collection of furniture, china and glassware on loan is to be added by this time. According to Paint Committee Chairman Linda Love, more funds are needed to complete the work. Send tax deductible donations to help with the paint expense to Orange Hall, P. O. Box 1291, St. Marys, GA 31558.

A new Genealogical Society has been organized in Camden County and invites anyone interested in family research to join. Contact Claudia Blankenship at 882-3192 for more information.

## OTHER NEWS

Coming soon: the 1920 Census record have been released and microfilm will be available at Bryan-Lang Historical Library before long. Copies were reserved when the release was announced, and should be in the library soon.

Coastal Georgia Historical Society now has a great display at the Lighthouse Museum on St. Simons: "The Cultural Heritage of Brunswick 1866 - 1914" using possessions of many of the old Glynn County families. Museum hours are 10 to 5 Tuesday - Saturday. 1:30 - 5 on Sunday. Admission is \$2.

Coastal Society with the Ft. Frederica Association also has a series of lectures planned at the Ft. Frederica auditorium. All start at 2:30. May 10: Changes in Fashion, the Victorian Lady by Leslie Hicks of Jekyll Island Museum. May 24: Sarah Brown of Armstrong State College will present Brunswick Vernacular Architecture. July 19: The Architectural Career and Brunswick Activity of Alfred Eichberg, Dr. Randy Gann of Brunswick College. August 2: The Architecture of Selected Glynn County Churches by Dr. Henry Barber of Brunswick College.

The Georgia Historical Society will hold its 153rd annual meeting in Savannah April 10 - 11. For details and reservations call (912) 651-2125.

## THANK YOU

To Burt Rhyne for the exceptional March program, who portrayed an early ranger on Cumberland Island from the Oglethorpe period. For a follow up on this period, read **BRITISH DRUMS ON THE SPANISH FRONTIER**.

To Camden Printing who does a great ongoing job with Guale News.

To Linda Love who is spearheading the Orange Hall Paint Committee.

## INTRODUCING

This month's out-of-town member Dorothy Lang McCaskill of St. Simons Island. Mrs. McCaskill, a Camden County native, spent her girlhood at Satilla Bluff and Woodbine. She traces her family through many of the "old" families including Lang, DuFour and Brown. She was director of the Camden County Welfare Service before moving to St. Simons where she has been active in many civic organizations and Christ Episcopal Church. She is a charter member of the Board of Bryan-Lang Historical Library and was instrumental in seeing that it was established.

1992 MEMBERS, continued from March issue -  
FAMILY - H. A. Bennett; Roy Dowdy; Charles Davison, Greenwich, CT; Sam Lee; George Long; John Love; Tilden Morris; Roy Norton; Audrey Proctor; Stanley Walko.  
INDIVIDUALS - Agnes McArthur; Midge Mathews, Raleigh; Patricia Barefoot, St. Simons; Kathryn Payne; Peggy Clements; Ernest Felder; Betty Gruver, Homerville; Carol Ruckdeschell; Shirley Thompson; Maxine Wells, Statesboro; Linda Wells; Dot Barker; Annabelle Buic; Harold Heagy; Daphne Junk; Helen Lang; Catherine MacDonell; Carol Rowland, Amelia Island; L. M. Vaughan, So. Daytona; Muriel Williams; Annette Taylor (new); Yates M. Meeks (new); Selma Bunkley, Brunswick; Linda Balsavage, Ponte Vedra (new); Charlton County Historical Society; Barbara Parrish, Jacksonville; Caroline Covert; Michelle Covert; Ruby Green (new); Rowland Hernandez, Jacksonville; Dot Holstun, Bill Joyner (1993), Eugenia Price (1993), Nancy Goshorn (1993).

If you have forgotten to renew, send dues to Treasurer Mildred Walko, 800 Margaret Street, St. Marys, 31558.

Family: \$15      Individual: \$8      Student: \$2

REMEMBER - save this newsletter for details of trips. The next issue will come out late August.