



Guale News

APRIL 1995

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FASCINATING FACTS IN THE LIFE OF THE FLOYD FAMILY

**GUALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
TO MEET TUESDAY MAY 16**

Guale Room, St. Marys Library 7:00

Executive Session in main library 6:00

The family Floyd settled here in Camden County early in the nineteenth century on lands stretching from the Satilla River on the north to Crooked River on the south. Planters, hunters, boat builders, politicians, fighters are only a few of the roles he played. And did you know that one of the largest tabby ruins on the coast is the remains of the John Floyd house?

This only touches on some of the information that will be brought to you attending the May meeting. Henry Williams will present exciting excerpts from a Floyd diary, while Eloise Thompson will give a few facts and figures on the family. Floyd artifacts from the Bryan-Lang Historical Library will be on display. Come see and hear.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Society member Hubert Lang asks that this notice be printed:

The annual Lang reunion will meet at Crooked River State Park on the second Sunday in June. Bring a covered dish and come see your cousins! This reunion has been held longer than some of us can remember, and it's a good way to keep in touch with old and new family members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The answers to last month's questions were all found in **CAMDEN'S CHALLENGE**, the plantation chapter.

Black Hammock, the old plantation with an Atkinson family cemetery in its yard, is located in the far north end of the county. It is the home of Society members Bill and Teresa Kirby (page 34). The plantation with the name of an alcoholic beverage is Bourbon. It was established by Nathan Atkinson in the 1790s (page 35). Bellevue and Fairfield were the two original Floyd plantations (pages 33 & 38). Refuge Plantation began as a Royal Land Grant to George McIntosh and remained in the ownership of his descendants until 1906 (page 47).

This month's questions may or may not be found in **CAMDEN'S CHALLENGE**, but they will be answered at the May meeting of Guale Historical Society.

Who held the original grant for lands in Floyd's Neck?

Which Floyd family member was a poet, planter, painter and duelist?

Which general in the Georgia Militia set aside a 200 acre military practice field on his plantation?

Where was one of the first hunting clubs in America organized?

Where did the Floyd family first settle when they moved to Georgia from South Carolina?

CAMDEN'S OLD TIMERS - THE FLOYDS

If you would like to submit your ancestor (doesn't have to be a Camden Countian), please send to Guale News, P.O. Box 398, St. Marys, GA 31558. It may be edited for space. The Floyd information comes from "CAMDEN'S CHALLENGE", "PIONEERS OF WIREGRASS GEORGIA" and "A LITTLE FAMILY HISTORY" by Mary Floyd Hamilton. Reams of Floyd information is located in the Bryan-Lang Library.

A letter written in 1873 and included in Mary Hamilton's writing described her Floyd kin as "more remarkable for loving their friends and hating their enemies, than for loving those that hate us; although quiet and reserved manners, the Floyds are a warm-hearted, passionate people, very decided in their likes and dislikes."

Charles Floyd, who came to Camden County in 1800, was born in Virginia in 1747 and left an orphan at the age of seven.

Two years later an uncle shipped him to sea and he was a seaman for fourteen years on trading vessels, traveling to Africa among other places. While there, an old African woman offered to buy him from the Captain offering palm oil, wine and salt in exchange.

His granddaughter described him as being "five feet six or seven inches high, auburn hair, a little inclined, to red, a most perfect set of teeth, never used liquor of any kind, nor tobacco, was never sick, took no medicine...."



General John Floyd
(Picture Credit-Bryan-Lang Library)

When he finally settled in South Carolina, he was in charge of an indigo plantation and soon married Mary Fendin. He was an ardent patriot during the Revolution and because of his membership in a volunteer company, whose motto was "Liberty or Death", his Tory neighbors burned his dwelling three times and sent him and his family into hiding.

He and his wife, his only child John, with John's wife moved to the "Thickets" in McIntosh County in 1795. Five years later they moved even farther south to establish Bellevue and Fairfield plantations in Camden County. Charles Floyd died with "cancer of the face" September 9, 1820 and is buried in the Floyd family cemetery.



Tabby ruins of Bellevue,
John Floyd's Plantation house

His son John, was born in Beaufort, South Carolina in 1769. There he married in 1793 Isabella Hazzard. He became involved in the military while in his early teens when he ran away and joined the Patriots during the Revolution. By 1806, he was commissioned Brigadier-General in the Georgia Militia and held this rank during the War of 1812.

He commanded the force at Pt. Peter, later was transferred to Savannah where British soldiers were expected to attack. He then commanded the militia and friendly Indians on moves across the Chattahoochee to subdue the hostile Indians. He led the battles of Autossee and Chalibee and he was wounded in one of the battles.

General Floyd's political life was spent as Representative from Camden County, State Senator, and Justice of the Inferior Court. He was a planter, a boat builder and surveyor, helping to run the Georgia-Florida line.

He died June 24, 1839. His wife died August 18, 1839 and both are buried in the family cemetery.

Their children were: Charles died young. Mary Hazzard married Everard Hamilton. Charles R. married Catherine Powell, Julia Boog. Sarah Catherine married Aimee deLaRoucheaulin. John Fendin married Ann Alston. Susan Dixon married Benjamin Hopkins. Caroline Eliza married James Blackshear. William died young. Richard married Mary Ann Chevalier. Melinda married William Hopkins. Samuel died single. Henry Hamilton married Margaret Boog, Mordina Boog.

FROM OTHER AREAS

The Brunswick library offers these interesting upcoming programs:

May 13, 10 a.m., Storyteller Genevieve Peterkin from Murrells Inlet, SC will entertain with Gullah tales at the library.

May 18, 7 p.m., award-winning poet Andrew Hudgins, will read and discuss his work Saints and Sinners and other poems.

May 21, 3 p.m., Fort Frederica, Dr. John Worth from Atlanta's Fernbank Museum of Natural History will talk about his latest book "THE STRUGGLE FOR THE GEORGIA COAST: AN 18TH CENTURY RETROSPECTIVE ON GUALE AND MOCAMA". This will be co-sponsored by the Coastal Georgia Historical Society.

May 25, 6:30 Library, the Book Discussion Group will discuss "THE ALIENIST" by Caleb Carr.

The Satilla Regional Library offers a Coffee County Cemetery book which may be of interest to any of you researching that area. This 596 page book covers the period 1837-1978. This is not a mere listing of graves, but also has clippings and pictures. Maps are also added to aid in your search for specific graveyards. You may order from the Genealogy Department

of the library, 201 S. Coffee Avenue, Douglas, GA 31533. The book is \$35 with \$2.50 postage.

1995 OFFICERS

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MEMBERSHIPS

Some of you have asked when the Guale year begins. January 1 starts the new year and dues automatically are due at that time.

Some of you received red marks on your labels last month when you had already paid your dues. Your news editor apologizes. But if you have not updated them yet, look for your red mark!! The ones who have joined since last month and before May 1 are: FAMILIES: Robert Patterson, Winter Springs, FL; W.H. Buchanah; Stanley Walko; Grayson Day; Elizabeth Davis, St. Augustine; Phil Jory, Atlanta (96); Bob Stephens.

INDIVIDUALS: Bill Davis, Atlanta; Carol Jones, Tallahassee; Roland Hernandez, Jacksonville; Kent Chauncey, Orem, Utah; Pauline Bosserdet; Betty Gruver, Homerville; Mary McLaughlin, Jacksonville.

MEMBERSHIPS: Family \$15- Individual \$8- Student \$2. Send to Mildred Walko, 800 Margaret St. St. Marys GA 31558.

Thanks to all of you who have made this newsletter possible. Dot Holstun and Minnie Johnson for handling the mailing! Charles Thompson for printing the labels and updating mailing lists! Mildred Walko for paying the bills! And last, but not least to Camden Printing for getting them out well done and timely!!!

This is the last newsletter until September, so Happy Fourth of July, a Merry Vacation and we will see you May 16, Guale Room, St. Marys Library 7:00.