



GUALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEET

Tuesday, April 23,

Guale Room, St. Marys City Library
7:00 Meeting 6:30 Executive Session

CHARLTON COUNTY HISTORICAL AND BUSINESSMAN JACK MAYS TO SPEAK SUBJECT: EARLY UPPER ST. MARYS RIVER SETTLEMENTS AND OTHER INTERESTING FACTS

Mr. Mays of our sister county has been dabbling in Charlton/Camden folklore for many years now and for those of you early risers has a before breakfast bit of history broadcast following the news on his Folkston station.

Mr. Mays is a native of south Georgia and has lived in Charlton County since 1937. He has been active in civic affairs, serving as mayor of Folkston, director of the Folkston Industrial Authority and chairman of the Democratic Executive Commission. He has been a newspaper publisher and now owns and operates radio stations in Folkston and Kingsland.

His subject will be of interest to all area residents. Guests are invited.

WHAT ARE THE UPPER ST. MARYS RIVER SETTLEMENTS?

The St. Marys River serves as the boundary between Georgia and Florida and its complete history would fill volumes. Indians used it for transportation. Spanish smugglers utilized its waters. French soldiers stood on its north banks ready to conquer the Spanish. British Fort Tonyn sat on the Kings Highway on the southern shore to defend Florida during the Revolution in the British period. American forts were established all along the river at Trader's Hill, Colerain and Temple. Liveoaking and lumbering of yellow pine brought timbermen to settle its shores. Settlements grew up all along the river, they are now long gone, but their stories make interesting listening and Society members and others will be excited to learn what Mr. Mays has to tell.



This St. Marys waterfront scene was shot in the 1930's. Today's Submarine Museum is in the two story block building in the background.

SUBMARINE MUSEUM HAS OPENED IN ST. MARYS

Many months of planning and labor have passed since the announcement that a submarine museum was on the way. It has now come to pass on the St. Marys waterfront with the grand opening on Saturday, March 30. The support of both the navy and civilian community has made this possible. Hours are 10 to 4, Monday through Saturday. \$2 Adult and \$1 Children admission. Admission is free with membership. \$15

\$15 Individual Membership
\$25 Family Membership

Mail to St. Marys Submarine Museum, 117 Osborne Street, St. Marys, GA 31558. Volunteers are needed. Call 912-882-ASUB.

GENEALOGY CORNER

The Bedell Family

This information comes from CAMDEN'S CHALLENGE and volume 9 of PIONEERS OF WIREGRASS GEORGIA.

Mahlon Bedell was born in North Carolina in 1806, the son of Revolutionary Soldier David Bedell and his wife Ruth Fairchild. He learned the trade of blacksmith from his father, and after moving to Georgia became a Methodist minister. He served both in the South Georgia and North Florida conferences.

He married first Linney Griffin and had the following children: Benjamin, Richard, Georgia Ann, Florida Jane, and two unknown.

He married second Jane Susan King of Camden County. She was the daughter of James and Margaret O'Neal King. They had two sons, both of whom have Camden County descendants, James King (J.K.) and Lucius Mahlon. Jane King Bedell died in 1855 and is buried in Zion Cemetery not of Kingsland.

Mahlon Bedell married next Eliza Moncrief and they had one daughter, Amanda. The Reverend Bedell died November 27, 1865 and is buried in Kettle Creek Cemetery in Ware County. His two sons who remained in Camden County are buried in Oak Grove Cemetery in St. Marys.

J.K., the older of the two, was born in 1849 in Camden County. He is known as the founder of Woodbine, since the town now sits on the site of his plantation and he was generous in donating land for the railroad, schools and churches.

In 1898, Mr. Bedell married Willie Maye Appleby of Missouri. Their children were: James King, Jr., who married Susie McCullough; Isaac, Susan, married Weyman C. Huckabee; Lucius Mahlon, who married Jack Griffin and Willie Mae, married John Parker.

Mrs. Bedell died October 17, 1915. J.K. Bedell died October 9, 1923.

Lucius Mahlon Bedell was born May 24, 1851, in Thomasville. He was a merchant and timber dealer. In 1884 he married Jane Virginia Lang, daughter of William. Their children were: Charlie, died in childhood; Angie, who married Daniel Proctor; Benjamin, who married Ola Baker; James King, who married Julian Clare Proctor; Marward; Elizabeth, who married W.D. Broadwell; Jane; Lucius Mahlon, who married J. Clayton Perry.

Mrs. Bedell died November 16, 1927. Mr. Bedell died July 30, 1932.

BITS AND PIECES

Don't forget this year's Crawfish Festival in Woodbine, the weekend of April 27: Friday night, food and entertainment at the waterfront. Saturday: more food and more entertainment with a Cajun band as headliner. Congressman Jack Kingston will be the parade marshal. Food with arts and crafts booths to entice all comers. The popular kid's carnival will once again be

located at the old school grounds - so put it on your calendar.

The mystery picture featured in the last newsletter was Sterling's Grocery in St. Marys as it looked in the 1950s. It has long ago lost its porches.

Plan now for a May ramble, watch your next newsletter for date and details.

FROM OTHER SOCIETIES

Costal Georgia Historical Society announces their latest exhibit at the Lighthouse Museum on St. Simons: Out of Ireland: The Story of Irish Emigration to America. Between 1730 and 1926, over seven million people left Ireland to come to America. This exhibit explores this migration through the political, economic and social forces at work at the time. Photographs and text from the book OUT OF IRELAND are used in the display with other panels of particular interest to Georgians, showing local Irish immigrants. This exhibition opened on March 17 and will be open through April 15.

The coastal Georgia Historical Society with the U.S. Coast Guard and National Park Service have been repairing the lantern room and replacing the glass in the historic lighthouse on St. Simons. This is one of the remaining lighthouses still in operation and is open for tours.

Exhibits through April 30 at the Georgia Historical Society's Hodgson Hall in Savannah, 501 Whitaker Street:

The General Lafayette McLaws Collection

Treasures and Trivia

Standing at the Brink: The Secession Crisis in Georgia

History, Archaeology, and Architecture of Laurel Grove Cemetery.

For all you genealogical Society library in Homerville awaits. It is open Monday through Friday 9:00 to 5:00, located in the Municipal Complex in downtown Homerville. Its mailing address is PO Box 595, Homerville, 31634. To join the Society, send \$25 which entitles you to a quarterly and use of the library.

MEMBERSHIPS

Members paid through 3/17 and not already listed in previous newsletters: Robert Smith Family (New); James Bruce Family; James Stacy Family; George Hannaford; Midge Mathews, Raleigh; Betsy Thomas; Louise Bailey; Jacquelyn Biggane, North Miami (New); Ernest Felder; Daphene Junk; Jean Mizell, Callahan (New).

Look for the red mark on your mailing label - if you have one, that means that we have no record of your renewing your dues for 1996. You may send them to Treasurer Mildred Walko, 800 Margaret Street, St. Marys, GA 31558

Family \$15

Individual \$8

Student \$2

REMINDER

Guale Historical Society will meet Tuesday, April 23, 7:00, Executive Session 6:30. Guale Room, St. Marys City Library. Jack Mays, Charlton County businessman and historian to speak. See ya there!