



ANNUAL WALKING TOUR OF ST. MARYS

Saturday, April 17

All you ever wanted to know about St. Marys (and a little more) is coming your way — join Guale Historical Society members and guests for a full day of fun and facts!! Eloise Thompson will be your guide. If you can't spend the full day, feel free to pick up the tour at any point.

THE GAME PLAN:

9:00 Meet at McIntosh Sugarhouse ruins on Spur 40 (Charlie Smith Sr. Highway) across from main gate of sub base.

10:00 St. Marys United Methodist Church Chapel for tour briefing, will leave there about 10:30 to walk the downtown area.

12:30 Lunch at Pauley's (details below, for menu choices and reservation information).

1:30 Oak Grove Cemetery

QUESTIONS, WE HAVE QUESTIONS —

Answers will be given during the tour — if you can't make the tour, watch for answers in the May issue of Guale News. (If you can answer all of these, you really do not need to make the tour!)

Which church in St. Marys is celebrating 200 years of history?

Where was the goldfish pond in a public park on Osborne Street?

Which house was built by a river pilot and is now owned by a "sky" pilot?

Which house, still standing, once stood on the waterfront?

Which building in the historic district is built of cement blocks handmade by the owner?

Which mighty weapon holds a child's toy?



Do you recognize this building in St. Marys? (Still standing)

LUNCH DETAILS

Lunch is set for 12:30 at Pauley's across from the Riverview Hotel. We MUST have your choice by Thursday, April 13. Call Eloise at 912-882-4587. Do not call Pauley's.

Price of \$7.50 includes menu choice, drink, tax, and gratuity.

1. Tossed House Salad, Soup, Garlic Bread
2. Creole Shrimp Salad
3. Pauley's Chicken Salad
4. Caesar Salad
5. Mesquite Smoked Turkey Croissant with choice of Potato or Pasta Salad
6. Italian Sub with choice of Potato or Pasta Salad

FUTURE MEETINGS

May 11: Speaker Bruce Fendig, Brunswick Harbor Pilot and Author

September: Ramble

October: Speaker Frank Ward, Research Associate of Enigma Project

November: Speaker Buddy Sullivan, talking about his new book THE HISTORY OF BRYAN COUNTY

ST. MARYS WATERFRONT

Picture if you will, while standing on the pavilion — the street along the river in the 1840s as portrayed by James Silva, who was a resident here in that period and who later wrote his memories for the Southeast Georgian in 1914-15.

"At the northeast corner of the river street and Osborne Street there was a good-size two-story wooden house with a wide piazza on the river side, both on the first and second floor. This is where Mr. Abram Bessent and his wife lived...

"Across the street from Mr. Abram Bessent's was the Bessent wharf on which were two two-story warehouses, one of which was occupied by Mr. John Bessent, a cousin of Abram, as a store and freight depot of the line of Savannah Steamboats, of which he was agent for many years...

"The other warehouse on the Bessent wharf was occupied by Mr. Morrison, who roomed there and kept a billiard saloon and bar.

"The dock between the Bessent and the Doolittle wharves was at the foot of the market and was where most of the small boats bringing produce landed and sold their stuff...

"Mr. John DuFour, Sen., kept a grocery and liquor store at the east end of the river street and in the rear a bowling alley...

"The next house was the residence of Mr. Dennis Pacetty, and then the little tobacco warehouse where my father manufactured cigars, and then his store over which the family lived. The house was within fifty feet of the river and during the frequent northeast gales of the fall season, the water would be a foot deep on the first floor.

"Next was the tinner's shop of my uncle John Hannay, who learned the trade in Charleston and came back and opened up here where he manufactured the good old-fashioned handmade heavy coffee pots, pans, and the other household utensils that would last."

Mr. Silva further tells of the homes of John Rudolph, Sr., small store and home of Peter Arnow, and the tailor shop of Joseph Arnow.

Also along the waterfront were found a bakery, owned by Acadian Peter Cormie, and the city market at the foot of Wheeler, John Pottle's home and gin mill, the post office in Doolittle's warehouse. It seems that the waterfront of the 1840s was a very active spot with no vacant lots!

GENEALOGY CORNER — JOHN POTTLE

The following information comes from Silva, Presbyterian and Methodist Church records, cemetery records, census records, and undocumented family notes.

James Silva's 1840s REMINISCENCE describes John Pottle as "one of the old citizens of St. Marys...a busy, bustling old man, always on the go, chasing the 'Almighty Dollar' for all that it was worth. He was a woodworker and chiefly engaged in the manufacture of a gin that was used to separate the seed from the variety of cotton known as Sea Island cotton."

Family records show that he was a "strict Presbyterian, who helped build the first church of that religion in St. Marys. He was an elder in the church..."

John Pottle was naturalized July 6, 1812, after living in the United States for at least five years. On May 8, 1829, he married Sarah Ann Crews.

Family notes indicate that he had first married Sarah Tate (Tait) on August 6, 1808, and had a large family. This will explain Pottles found in county records, born before 1829: Margaret, who married Wilson Oden; Mary, who married A. W. Crichton, and died March 8, 1829 at the age of 17; Joseph, who died September 1835, age 26.

The 1850 Camden County Census shows that Mr. Pottle was born in Newfoundland. Living in his home were his wife Sarah, born in Georgia, his daughter Martha, age 18, daughter Hannah Nevitt, age 35, and granddaughter Harriett Judson, age 7.

Harriett Judson was the daughter of Harriett Pottle, who married Frederick Judson in 1841 and died February 23, 1842.

Mr. Pottle's tombstone in Oak Grove Cemetery has been lost. Presbyterian Church records show that he died August 8, 1886. Sarah died October 6, 1851, buried in Oak Grove.

Only two of the Pottle children from both marriages lived to an old age: Martha, who was born in 1828, according to her tombstone — on December 25, 1829 according to the family Bible — married St. Marys Methodist Church preacher John C. Ley on July 4, 1853. They had several sons, two of whom became Methodist ministers. Martha died in 1914 and is buried beside her husband in Micanopy, Florida.

Edward, who was born July 12, 1822 and died January 10, 1886, was described by Silva. Edward went away to college, graduated and studied law "and by diligence and natural

talent won distinction as a lawyer, both on the bar and on the bench."

ZABETTE

The world premier of Gule Society member Mary Bullard's and Georgia composer Curtis Bryant's opera Zabelle will be presented in Atlanta on April 29 and 30 at the Rialto Theater. This three-act opera is based on Mary Bullard's book ROBERT STAFFORD OF CUMBERLAND ISLAND.

Tickets are \$20 and \$10 and may be ordered by calling the box office at 404-651-4727.

Contributions will also be accepted to help defray the costs of production. You may send tax-deductible gifts to Georgia State University Foundation, School of Music, P.O. Box 4097, Atlanta, GA 30302-4097.

BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS

Note to all genealogists — you will not want to miss this newest from Huxford Genealogical Society. A Finding Index to ALL ten volumes of PIONEERS OF WIREGRASS GEORGIA. \$20 plus \$3 postage. Georgia residents add \$1.20 tax.

PEEPLS ANTE 1600-1962, compiled by Ann Bradbury Peeples. A comprehensive history of early Peeples. Although this has little on the Camden County Peeples, if you can connect with anyone in this book — then you're home free with a long line of these folks. Order from Rev. Robert Peeples, 8 Moon Shell Road, Hilton Head, S.C. 29928-5444. \$28.50 postpaid.

MEMBERSHIPS

If you have a red mark on your label, that means, according to the Society's records, you have not paid your dues for 1999. After June 1, you will not longer receive the newsletter.

Do NOT send dues to the newsletter address — this delays processing. Send your dues to Treasurer Mildred Walko, 800 Margaret Street, St. Marys, GA 31558.

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

Those joining since listing in March newsletter: John Bailey Family; Haze & Judy Buchanan; Kathleen Luke & Bill Herman (new); James Bruce Family; P. B. Howell Family, Leesburg; John Love Family (2000 & 2001); Kenneth Mills Family, Fernandina; Tilden Norris Family.

Individuals: R. G. Raymond, St. Simons; George Brown, Atlanta; Daphne Junk; Hazel Marr; Midge Mathews; Patricia McMillan (2000); Ruby Perritt, St. George; Laverne Watson; Roberta Cross, Fernandina; Charlton Co. Historical Society; Harryette Johnson, St. Simons; June Jones, Anderson, IN (new); Neil McClurd; Joan Padgett (new); David Richardson, Ocala; Clay Adams, Lutz (new).