



Guale News

FEBRUARY 1993

VOLUME 13, NO. 1

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! Here we are, back into meetings - rambles, and all the "fun stuff" that makes this a great historical society. May all of you join in making 1993 a wonderful year for Guale Historical Society.

FIRST MEETING OF 1993

Tuesday, February 9, 7:00, Guale Room, St. Marys Library.
Executive Session of all officers and committee chairmen at 6:30.

COME VISIT THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS!!

This meeting will take visitors and guests far afield from Camden County - but let's explore a bit - all the way to Ecuador - where we will visit its world-famous National Park, the Galapagos Islands, and drop into the Rain Forest farther inland via slides.

Yes, Guale member Eloise Bailey was there in October, and at the request of Board Members will present her pictures and comments.

So come traipsing with us among the sea lions, the frigate birds and iguanas - or sloshing through the mud of the Rain Forest, projected to be there only 20 years more. Just don your bug juice, rain gear, sunblock (no need to bring your passport). Make your trip the easy way - in the comfort of Guale Room - 7:00, February 9.

1993 SCHEDULE

At the January planning session of the officers and directors, plans were made for this year's calendar.

February 9 - 7:00 General Meeting, St. Marys Library
March/April, date to be announced Ramble
May General Meeting
June - August Vacation
September General Meeting
October Election of Officers and Ramble
November General Meeting

Newsletters will bring you up to date before each meeting!

1993 WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT

A New Year has arrived on the scene,
The old one is gone can well be seen.

We now can start anew, my friend
And find old fences we must mend.

Lost opportunities now are gone,
But this is the year we can atone.

One thing you want to do, by golly
Is to participate in Guale!

Sometimes we'll have programs without gloom
In St. Marys Library's Guale Room.

At other times we will have a trip
Either in our cars or on a ship.

If not yet sent, don't forget to pay
Your membership dues this very day,

While it is still fresh on your heart
Give our membership roll a jump-start.

When all is said and done, we'll see
The best year ever was Ninety-three!

From the pen of President John
Welcome to Guale, everyone!

WASHINGTON OAK AND THE USS CONSTITUTION

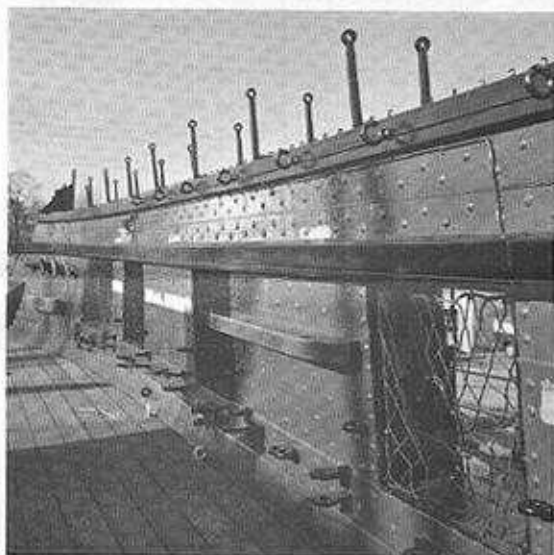
Thanks to the inquisitive natures of members Ben & Shirley Thompson, and the pursuit of Guale President John Christian, the mystery of "What happened to that piece of the Washington Oak?" has been solved.

To review a bit - the historic Washington Oak was planted with much ceremony in the middle of Osborne Street in St. Marys the day that George Washington was buried. It finally succumbed to age and civilized forces such as surrounding pavement, and because of danger to passing motorists it was cut down in 1987. With the cooperation of City Fathers and local Navy Officials, portions of it were then shipped to the Charlestown, Massachusetts Navy Yard to be used in ongoing repairs to that venerable frigate USS CONSTITUTION a/k/a OLD IRONSIDES. (Incidentally, most of the original timbers in this world's oldest commissioned warship launched in 1797 came from Georgia's barrier islands.)

On a summer visit to the ship's museum, the Thompsons noted that Georgia was not named among the states providing timber for the ship's repairs. A letter from Dr. Christian to the Maintenance and Repair Facility followed.

Facility Director C.M. Deans replied explaining that "...gracious donations of live oak, such as that from St. Marys is of tremendous benefit to the ship's maintenance and repair effort..." and repairs have indeed been made from the Washington Oak timber. He also expressed appreciation for the interest shown in the ship's preservation and assured that the sign listing states providing oak would be corrected to include Georgia. If you will note the accompanying picture supplied by Mr. Deans, the forward starboard pin rail next to the webbed opening is "ours" (for us landlubbers, that is the short curved timber a couple of feet above the deck.)

Thus Camden County live oak remains afloat in the USS Constitution.



Section of the USS CONSTITUTION showing wood used from the Washington Oak in repairs.

(Picture Credit Charlestown (Mass.) Navy Yard)

McINTOSH TABBY RUINS

Marjorie Waters on behalf of Guale Historical Society has now placed in the hands of Camden Recreation Department, that oversees the ruins, a bronze plaque showing that the ruins have been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Recreation department head Jimmy Gisi has assured the Society that the plaque will be securely mounted as soon as possible.

KINGSLAND

Have you ridden, or better still, strolled through the National Register District of Kingsland lately? The brick sidewalks and vintage street lights are adding that special touch to the commercial district bringing pride to hometown folks and interest to visitors. It's focal point, the old Camden Hotel, will soon be city offices adding even more life to mainstreet Kingsland. You will want to check this out!!

FROM BRYAN-LANG LIBRARY

A new computer is among the possessions of the library with the genealogical program Brother's Keeper among the programs installed. Also purchased were the index to the 1860 Florida census, Early Georgia Marriages Before 1800, and also those after 1800. Library volunteer Larry Durbin has also placed many families he has researched, including Camden family Sheffield, and Camden County cemeteries in the computer making them readily available to researchers.

A new copier has also been ordered and should be installed by the time you receive your newsletter.

Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation held its quarterly meeting on February 3 in the Bryan-Lang Library. Camden County Council members are Loretta Conner, Stanley Crews, Mara Peterson, and Bebe Williams.

ORANGE HALL

The Orange Hall Cookbook was released for sale in time for the Christmas holidays, and all reports indicate that sales are still holding. When you see one, you will understand why it is in such demand. The attractive pink cover featuring renowned artist Jim Talley's sketch of the building and grounds will quickly draw you attention. Inside you will find, not only outstanding recipes of local residents, but many never before published photographs scattered throughout the book adding interest to the brief history of St. Marys and Orange Hall. Marjorie Waters as cookbook chairman has done an outstanding job in assembling this must-have book.

Copies are at Orange Hall, local shops and at Bryan-Lang Library in Woodbine for \$13.95. Or order from Orange Hall, P.O. Box 1091, St. Marys, GA 31558 plus \$2 per copy postage.

FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

From the newsletter of the Historic Advisory Committee of the Altamaha RDC: This will be of interest to those with Wayne County connections. In November 1992, a dedication ceremony was held at Doctortown on the Altamaha River for a marker commemorating the Indian, Civil War and lumber industry heritage associated with the site. This point on the river was a major crossing point from Indian days through

WWII. It was a target of Union troops in 1864, and later became an industrial center for the timber and paper industry. The village of Doctortown has disappeared, but the historic site now has state recognition.

INTRODUCING

This month's out-of-town member of Guale Historical Society is Midge Mathews of Raleigh, NC. Although not a Camden resident, Midge has a special feel for historic Camden developed through her research on local ancestors. Her interest goes far beyond names and dates extending into old homesteads, anecdotes, and other details of their lives. While pursuing her kin, Midge has been more than generous, sharing books, microfilm, and typed data with the Historical Library. Among the Camden families she is researching are Pacetty's, Floyds, Browns, Boogs and Gelzers.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN 1993

President and Archives Chairman, John Christian; Vice President and Program Chairman, Henry Williams; Treasurer, Mildred Walko; Recording Secretary, Caroline Covert; Corr. Secretary and Newsletter Editor, Eloise Bailey; Directors, Dot Barker, Gwen Thomas, Marjorie Waters; Historic Sites, William Morris; Orange Hall and Parliamentarian, Marjorie Waters; Museum and Publicity, Claudia Blankenship; Cemetery, Stanley Walko; Membership, Dot Holstun; Nominations, Betsy Thomas; Mailings, Minnie Johnson and Dot Holstun

MEMBERSHIP

It's that time again! January is membership renewal month - some of you were early birds and have already paid your dues. If your name does not appear below, please send dues as soon as possible, for it will soon be time to purge the membership list, and it will be a shame not to stay posted on 1993 happenings. (Deadline March 1, 1993)

If you have questions about your membership, call Treasurer Mildred Walko, 882-5294, or Newsletter Editor Eloise Bailey, 882-4587.

Paid to date (1/18): Howard Davis Family; Bill Blankenship Family; Richard Waters Family; Roy Norton Family; Bill Joyner; Eugenia Price, St. Simons; Nancy Goshorn, St. Simons; Josephine Demmond; Dot Barker; Dot Holstun (94); Carol Jones, Tallahassee; Beulah King; Lois Hemminger; William Morris; Eloise Bailey.

GAULE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Renewal New

Name _____

Address _____

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