



Guale News

FEBRUARY 1996

VOLUME 16, NO. 1

GUALE BOARD MEMBERS WISH YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR AND HOPE THAT YOU AND YOUR GUESTS WILL BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTIVITIES OF 1996!!!

The first meeting of 1996 will be on Thursday, February 15 at 7:00, St. Marys City Library, Guale Room!

Executive Session at 6:30

ST. MARYS LIBRARIAN BILL BLANKENSHIP TO SPEAK

Did you believe that libraries in Camden County came into being in the twentieth century? Do you know when a library society was first organized here? Do you know what is available in today's local libraries? Have you realized how many libraries, (besides school libraries) are in Camden County? (5) Do you believe that the only function of libraries is to provide reading materials?

Come hear Bill's program about these libraries and learn the historical background as well as what materials and services are available in Camden County libraries! Bill is an enthusiastic speaker and well versed in the backgrounds of the local libraries, you will not want to miss this program!

Remember Thursday, February 15, 7:00, Guale Room at the St. Marys City Library! Visitors are always welcome.

PLANS FOR 1996

At a January planning session, officers have suggested the following schedule for the coming year:

February meeting - Bill Blankenship speaker at St. Marys Library

March (date to be announced) - A visit to McIntosh tabby ruins and a walking tour of St. Marys with dutch treat lunch. Next newsletter will give details.

April - Inside meeting

May - Ramble

June - August - Time Out

September - Ramble

October - Inside meeting with election of officers

November - To be decided

If you have suggestions for programs and rambles, please return the form at the bottom of the newsletter.

Officers for 1996 are:

President - John Christian

Vice President - Eloise Thompson

Rec. Secy. - Susan Lee

Corr. Sec. - Virginia Christian

Treas. - Mildred Walko

Directors (2nd year of 3 year term) - Jeanne Hurt, Charles Thompson, Bebe Williams

Committees:

Archives - J. Christian Program to be named

Newsletter - E. Thompson Orange Hall - Linda Love

Cemetery - Stanley Walko Publicity - Bill Blankenship

Membership - Susan Lee Parlia. - Linda Love

Mailing - Minnie Johnson Norm. Comm. - Betsy Thomas

FEATURING DOT HOLSTUN

Guale Historical Society Charter member Dot Holstun has left us. She moved the first of the year to Decatur to be near her family and has left a void. Dot has served as secretary, membership chairman, making sure that each member received membership cards, mailing cochair and has volunteered in many other spots - in other words has filled in any gap that opened since Guale Historical Society organized in 1978. She has collected Georgia related books for many years and now has generously donated them to the Bryan-Lang Library.

Dot was a native of Moultrie and came with her husband Reese to Camden County where they both taught until retirement. She was not only active in the Historical Society, but involved in the Woman's Club, AARP, The Presbyterian Church, and other civic organizations. We will miss you Dot!

If you would like to drop her a note her address is:

Coventry Place, Apt #226, 2806 N. Decatur Road, Decatur, GA 30033. Her phone number is (404) 299-8621.

IN MEMORIAM

Beulah Mizell Davis King

Geneva Edenfield Stebbins

OAK GROVE CEMETERY

Historical Society board members voted at the planning session in January to make a \$500 donation to Oak Grove Cemetery Association from the Society's general fund for repairs to two badly deteriorated old unmarked graves. One's condition was so poor that the body was actually exposed. Brick and cement work is called for. Restoration work will soon be underway.

A limb has left its mark on the Davis-Hardee lot in Oak Grove Cemetery and pushed over one of the markers. (It fell on its face so we can't tell at this point the name on it.) But a representative of Bailey monument company from Waycross has met with us and assured us that it can be righted. However, it will be several weeks before the work can be done because of the company's heavy workload. Society member Mrs. Hamilton Davis set up a trust several years ago to care for this lot and the Society is responsible for its care. Cemetery chairman Stanley Walko looks after this lot and also the Hawkins-Bachlott-Upchurch lot which has a similar trust to take care of its expenses.

GENEALOGY CORNER - PACETTI FAMILY

The following information is taken from *CAMDEN'S CHALLENGE* and was supplied the revision committee by Society member Midge Mathews of Raleigh, North Carolina.

The Pacetti family has many descendants in Camden County, though very few still bear the Pacetti name having descended through a female line.

The Pacetti's descend from the Italian/Minorcan line that emigrated from the Mediterranean with the Andrew Turnbull group to work on his indigo plantation at New Smyrna in 1768. After years of deprivation, the plantation workers petitioned the governor of British Florida for justice and moved to St. Augustine. (For details of the Minorcans' hardship, read *MULLET ON THE BEACH*, by Patricia Griffin.) After living there for several years, some family members moved to Camden County early in the 1800s.

John Pacetti, the son of Tomas Paxeti and Maria Catalina Bonnelly Paxeti (she is buried in Oak Grove Cemetery), along with his brothers Andrew, Joseph, Thomas, and Dennis, were the first of the family to use English as their primary language. John and four generations of his descendants settled at Cherry Point on lands now part of Kings Bay Submarine Base.



Camden County Courthouse Built in 1870s and later St. Marys City Hall. It was used as the City Library for about ten years until it burned in 1962. This stood on the site of the present St. Marys City Hall.

Mr. Pacetti married Margaret Campbell, born between 1820 and 1824 - daughter of Otis and Martha Smith Campbell. The Pacetti children were:

Julia Isabel, born 1837, married James Wilson, CSA
She died after 1900.

Lewis David, CSA, born December 21, 1839, married Margaret Isabella Floyd, married second Julia Peebles (no issue). He died August 16, 1916, buried Oak Grove.

John, Jr., born 1843, died March 21, 1889.

David Bailey, born January 3, 1845, married Evelina Downs, died March 26, 1928, buried Oak Grove.

Margaret Harriett, born April 17, 1847, married Robert Frohock, CSA, died April 25, 1924, buried Oak Grove.

Mary Martha, born 1849, married Lewis Clark, CSA, died dates unknown.

Francis, born 1853, married Orrie Jane Carter, married second Bertha Sanderson, died January 18, 1929, buried Oak Grove.

Mrs. Pacetti died in 1860 and Mr. Pacetti married second Sarah Hubbell in 1878. (no issue). He died February 17, 1890. John and Margaret Pacetti are buried in Oak Grove Cemetery in St. Marys.

FROM GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Georgia Historical Society's spring lecture series began on January 11 with Dr. Marvin Smith's "Hernando de Sotor in Georgia." The second in the series "William Bartram and the Creek Indians" will be held on February 8 at 7:00 at Hodgson Hall. On March 21, Dr. Martha Keber will speak at 6:00 at the Owen-Thomas House on the subject "Marquis de Lafayette's Tour of Georgia, 1825." The last of the series will be on April 11 at 7:00 at Hodgson Hall with speaker Virginia Steele Wood presenting "A Visit of the Georgia Islands, 1753." All lectures are free and open to the public. Both Hodgson Hall and Owen-Thomas House are located in Savannah. For further information contact the Historical Society, 501 Whitaker St., Savannah, GA 31499.

CAMDEN'S CHALLENGE

Those of you who are new to the mailing list, may not know that an updated history of Camden County *CAMDEN'S CHALLENGE* is available at Bryan - Lang Library, Orange Hall, Blue Goose, or Bookseller. If you are out-of-town and would like to order send \$34 which includes mailing to Bryan-Lang, P.O. Box 725, Woodbine, GA 31569.

NEWS FROM BRYAN-LANG HISTORICAL LIBRARY

The Library now has its own phone line. The new number is (912) 576-5841. If you lose the number, you may still reach the library through the county system 576-5601.

THANK YOU'S

to HENRY WILLIAMS for providing years of programs and rambles. That took dedication and planning. You need to know that the reason the rambles always went so well, Henry always made a preliminary trip to be sure that on the day of the ramble all plans would fall into place - and they did!

to ALL OFFICERS for heading the Society through 1995 and to those who will be in leadership position in 1996, with particular attention to treasurer Mildred Walko, who keeps up with the membership checks, makes deposits and pays bills!

to CHARLES THOMPSON for sorting and typing and rechecking mailing lists and labels so that you will get your newsletter!

to MINNIE JOHNSON for sticking labels, filling forms and getting newsletter in mail and on time!

CAMDEN PRINTERS for a good-looking newsletter and professional advice to an amateur newsletter editor!

MEMBERS MEMBERS MEMBERS

As a member of Guale Historical Society, you will

- attend exciting meetings bringing the past to life
- travel throughout the area on rambles visiting historical sites
- receive newsletters bringing an update of historical events and upcoming programs

If your name is on this list, you have paid for 1996.

These are recorded up to January 19. If you have not paid, send your dues to Mildred Walko, 800 Margaret Street, St. Marys, GA 31558.

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

Bill Blankenship Family; John Christian Family; Howard Davis, Jr. Family; Kathleen Davis, Fernandina; William Gray Family; Maybelle Gilfillan, Monte Vista, CO; Betty Gruver, Homerville; Carol Jones & 97, Tallahassee; Phil Jory Family, Atlanta; Bill Joyner; William Kelly Family; W.C. King, Avondale Estates; Sam Lee Family; John Love Family & 97, 98, 99; Carl Meeks Family; Barbara Parrish, Jacksonville; Robert Patterson, Winter Springs, FL; Lois Rebstock (New); Carol Rowland, Fernandina; Jack Seals (New), Bellevue, WA; Jim Shirley Family (New); Charles Smith Family; Betty Stephens; William Stoddard Family; Charles Thompson Family; Maxine Wells, Statesboro; Alex Williams & 97, 98, Atlanta; Dan Williams, Jr. Family; Pat Williams; Henry Williams, Jr. Family; Henry Williams, Sr. Family.

Charter members who have held membership since 1978 are Tilden and Arlene Norris, Flem and Peggy Hall, Wanda and Ardis Bennett, Edith Willingham, Shirley Thompson, Dot Holstan, and Eloise Thompson.

If in doubt about dues - they come due January 1 of each year! Please let the newsletter editor know if you plan a change of address - your newsletter will be returned to us and not forwarded! A call to 912-882-4587 or a note to P.O. Box 398, St. Marys, GA 31558 will take care of a new label for you.

HELP! The program and newsletter chairmen would like your input in planning programs and rambles. Please send this in with additional comments if you like.

Name (optional) _____

Programs I would like to see _____

Rambles I would like to make _____

Yes, I would be happy to lead a program on this subject _____

I would like to read this in the newsletter _____

Mail to Guale News, P.O. Box 398, St. Marys, GA 31558