



Guale News

MARCH 1992

VOLUME 12 NO. 2

*NPS Ranger Bert Rhyne to Portray Ranger Thomas Jones
of Oglethorpe's Independent Infantry*

Regular Guale Historical Society Meeting
Tuesday, March 10 : 7:00
Guale Room, St. Marys City Library
Executive Session 6:30

Step back into the 1700's with Ranger Thomas Jones dressed in buckskin and his tomahawk on ready to repel invading Spanish on the south end of Cumberland Island at Fort Prince William. Part Creek Indian Jones along with 250 other Rangers patrolled the beaches of Cumberland when not moving into Spanish Florida taking scalps and otherwise making themselves unpopular characters. These rough and ready soldiers were a sharp contrast to the more formal British 42nd Infantry, originally stationed there by Oglethorpe. But they did their job!

Let's review your Georgia history a bit. You remember that after General Oglethorpe made his first settlement at Savannah in 1733, he moved southward into lands that were supposed to be a buffer between English territory and Spanish Florida. Here along the coast he established a string of forts including Fort Frederica on St. Simons, and two on Cumberland Island: Fort St. Andrew on the north end, Fort Prince William on the south.

History has recorded the Battle of Bloody Marsh on St. Simons and would have us all believe that this was the final siege that pushed Spain out of Georgia forever. What history books don't tell is that the Spanish made another stab at Georgia, this time at Fort Prince William. This battle they, too, lost. But let's not give the plot away. Come hear Bert tell the facts - and those of you who have heard him speak on other occasions, know what a great storyteller he is.

He has also promised to touch on the missions of Cumberland, more neglected Georgia history!!

See ya' there.

FORT MOSE, COLONIAL AMERICA'S BLACK FORTRESS OF FREEDOM

As a follow-up to February's Ramble to St. Augustine's Castillo de San Marcos, you might want to make a trip to the traveling exhibit now at the Savannah Science Museum.

At the same time San Marcos was defending St. Augustine, a small garrison of free Blacks were manning Fort Mose on the town's outskirts. Five years archaeological work and research in the Spanish archives have proved this to be a particularly important site for its military value, and its role in early Black history.

The display not only gives the history of the fort, but also African and Iberian origins of the families who lived there. This fort was established in 1738, destroyed by Oglethorpe when he raided St. Augustine, then rebuilt only to be abandoned when Spain relinquished Florida to the British in 1763. A small marsh island that held the fort was occupied by more than 100 men, women and children - and artifacts on display reflect their life style.

The address for the Savannah Science Museum is 4405 Paulsen Street. Phone (912) 355-6705.

NEW AT BRYAN—LANG HISTORICAL LIBRARY

Genealogist Ronald Bremer's new book *COMPENDIUM OF HISTORICAL SOURCES; HOW AND WHERE OF AMERICAN GENEALOGY*. This 1000 page resource book was a gift of Navy Chaplain Father Robert Volko and is a great aid for family researchers in locating widely scattered sources of genealogical information.

Several other books have been added in the past month and everyone is welcome to "come and see".

NEW GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY IN MACCLENNY

While thinking of family research, a new library has been added nearby. According to Laveice Smallwood, the Church of Latter Day Saints in Macclenny has opened a research facility to join others in the Jacksonville area: on Ft. Caroline Road and in Orange Park. This new one is located on Highway 228 at the church and is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays 10 - 2 and 6:30 - 9 p.m. on the same days. On Saturdays it is open 10 - 1. In addition to mounds of material supplied by the church, Laveice has placed her personal library of 1000 research books and periodicals on loan.

A PAINT JOB AT ORANGE HALL

Preliminary work such as scraping and replacing rotten boards is underway at Orange Hall getting the building ready for its long awaited paint job. Approximately \$3000 is still needed, and all contributions are tax deductible.

INTRODUCING...

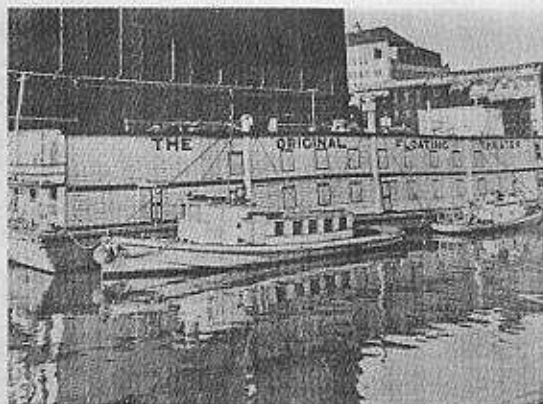
this month's out-of-town member, Larry Vaughn of South Daytona. Larry is the Vaughn family historian, publishing a regular newsletter filled with family history that he has researched. The history of the Vaughn family of Nassau County and allied lines Harrison, Braddock, Haddock, Higginbotham, Hardee, and others overlap with Camden and McIntosh County - and in his research Larry has uncovered much information of local interest which he has willingly shared with Bryan-Lang and researchers.

A MUST READ BOOK!!

Have you ever wondered what families did for entertainment in the days before TV or local movies - or when a trip to Jacksonville was an expedition? Have you ever considered a showboat? In fact the very showboat that Edna Ferber used as a setting for her best seller by the same name *SHOW BOAT*.

Well, the showboat James Adams was a great source of amusement with plays, musicals, vaudeville acts - and it played right here in Camden County at the St. Marys waterfront in the thirties. Some local residents recall its visit, in fact, one Society member admitted to hiding under the seats for the second show (he was just a boy at the time).

Dr. Richard Gillespie, after much research, has now published *THE JAMES ADAMS FLOATING THEATRE* depicting life aboard in its 25 year history. Copies are available at the Bookseller in St. Marys, or for those of you out of town, you may order from Tidewater Publishers, P.O. Box 456, Centerville, MD 21617. \$28.95. Credit card orders may be called in on the toll free number 800-638-7641.



(Credit - R. Gillespie)

THE JAMES ADAMS FLOATING THEATRE

1992 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- March 10 -

7:00 Guale Room, St. Marys Library, Bert Rhyne, Speaker

- April 11 -

Ramble to 2nd annual Rice Festival at Woodsmanson Plantation:
Demonstration of Rice Production, Other 19th Century Activities,
Music, Food - more details next newsletter

- May -

Date to be announced, trip to Sapelo Island,
because of limited space, this will be a members only trip.

- June — August -

Vacation Days

- September -

Open

- October -

Regular meeting with election.

- November -

Open

Memberships continued from February issue-

FAMILY - Henry and Bebe Williams, Jim and Pat Talley

INDIVIDUAL - Jackie McCarthy (new); John Christian; Irma
J. Hurt (new); Bill King, Avondale Estates; Judy Schlink (new);
William Thompson, Savannah; Marilois Keith, Folkston; W. R.
Wells, Martinez; Josephine Demmond; Belle Griffin; Brandi
Griffin; Betsy Thomas; Edith Willingham.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE HEADS

President: John Christian

Vice President: Henry Williams

Treasurer: Mildred Walko

Rec. Sec.: Dot Holstun

Corr. Sec.: Eloise Bailey

Directors '92-94: Dot Barker,
Gwen Thomas,
Marjorie Waters

Archives: John Christian

Program: Henry Williams

Historical Sites: Dan Williams

Museum: Ernest Felder

Orange Hall & Publicity: Marjorie Waters

Mailing: Minnie Johnson

Dot Holstun

Membership: Dot Holstun

Cemetery: Stanley Walko

Newsletter Editor: Eloise Bailey

*(If you have any announce-
ments or statements, please
call 882-4587)*

REMEMBER Time for dues payment is January 1! Send to
Mildred Walko, 800 Margaret Street, St. Marys, Georgia 31558.

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