



Guale News

MARCH 1995

VOLUME 15, NO. 2

PROGRAM PROGRAM PROGRAM

March 14 - Guale Room, St. Marys Library, 7:00

Executive Session 6:30

Patricia Barefoot, Speaker

Her subject will be Vanishing Historical Landscapes, touching not only the geography of the area, but people as well.

Come prepared for an evening of educational entertaining enlightenment as Patricia tells all. She is a Glynn County native with deep Camden County roots going back to Abner Harrell, featured as our old-timer in this issue.

Patricia has been researching local history for sometime and the results of her work may be found in the weekly newspaper Harbor Sound. She has touched on such varied subjects as the Shakers of White Oak, Midwives, Crosstie cutting, and Dr. John Christian.

CAMDEN'S OLD-TIMERS - THE HARRELLS

This new feature began in the last issue with the Arnow family. You are invited to contribute your Camden ancestor by writing to Guale Newsletter, P.O. Box 398, St. Marys, GA 31558.

Sources for the Harrell Family are Society member Shirley Thompson's "The Woodbine Twineth" and "Camden's Challenge".

The "old" Harrell family members of Camden County are descendants of Abner Harrell, Sr., who was born in North Carolina and was in Georgia by 1788.

He first showed up in Glynn County and soon was in Camden, possibly as an Indian trader. (Abner later made a claim for "4 Indian Ponies" worth fifty dollars each and "a full Blooded Mare" worth \$100 stolen by Creek Indians in Glynn County. He then moved to Montgomery County, where he owned property. Finally he was back in Camden in 1800, shown on a Grand Jurors List.



Many Harrell family descendants are in this picture of the Harrell School taken about 1901. It was located behind Bickley Chapel off State Road 259 (River Road).

Among his sons was Abner, Jr., born about 1800. He remained in Camden County with his stepbrother Clabern Wright when Abner, Sr. returned to Glynn County. The younger Harrell is shown in the 1820 Camden census. The elder Abner's will was probated in 1836.

Abner, Jr. married first a Taylor, and second Elizabeth Highsley on January 16, 1853. Abner's children by his first wife were Elizabeth, who married Joseph York; Andrew McClellan, who married Kesiah Johns; Sarah Ann, who married Samuel Mills Drury; Claborn Wright, who married Lucretia Highsmith; Abner Samuel, wife Keziah Eubank; Levi; Emiline, married Levi Johns; Robert. The children of his second marriage were Isabella, wife of Burwell Brown; Henrietta married to John Miller; and Augusta.

Abner Harrell, Jr. and many other early Harrells are buried in what is known as the Harrell-Wright Cemetery located off the Post Road about two miles south of Bickley Chapel on lands of the Jim Harrell place. Only five graves are marked, but at least fifty unmarked ones are believed to be there. Many other family members are in Bickley.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Did you find the answers to last month's trivia questions? They were all found in "Camden's Challenge". If you did not: The mule powered rail line went through Camden County about 1835 (p. 81). Shirley Thompson has the ancient telegraph pole in her front yard (p. 81). Before cooking a skunk, first wrap it in green leaves and bury it for a few days to remove the scent (p. 246). In 1976, the county's largest employer was St. Marys Kraft (p. 234). In 1993, U. S. Navy (p. 235). After the War of 1812 had ended, British soldiers occupied St. Marys (p. 112).

MORE QUESTIONS

Which two parishes made up what is now Camden County? How did Camden County get its name? What is fodder? What killed Phineas Miller? Which Camden County church has an animal in its name?

Remember, all answers are in "Camden's Challenge". If you don't have a copy, you may secure one at Bryan-Lang Library in Woodbine, or in St. Marys at the Blue Goose, Orange Hall, or Bookseller. If you are out of town, order from Bryan-Lang Library, P.O. Box 725, Woodbine 31569. \$30 with \$4 mailing for first copy, \$1 for each additional book. Make checks payable to Camden County.

Other books available at Bryan-Lang are the reprinted "History of Camden County" by James Vocelle. This was first published in 1914. Two booklets, Camden County and Cumberland Island are also available there, as well as an assortment of others. You might want to go browsing.

WIREGRASS PARKWAY

US 84 was officially dedicated as The Wiregrass Georgia Parkway on Georgia Day, February 12. This highway begins in Liberty County and stretches all across Georgia to Early County on the west side before entering Alabama. The counties approving this new designation are Liberty, Long, Pierce, Wayne and Ware, as well as the Georgia Department of Transportation.

Interested citizens have been working on this project since 1989 with letters of endorsement coming from many of the historical organizations in the counties involved.

Among the festivities celebrating the naming was a program held in Homerville. Huxford Genealogical Society President Donald Davis spoke on wiregrass, Wiregrass, Georgia and the various aspects of how the plant and terminology served early settlers.

To you readers who are not residents of south Georgia, wiregrass is a common plant growing mainly in the flat pinelands of this region. The name is widely used in this area as in Folks Huxford's "Pioneer of Wiregrass, Georgia", in George Roger's and Frank Saunder's "Swamp Water and Wiregrass", Historical Sketches of Coastal Georgia, in Civil War units - Brooks County's Wiregrass Rifles and Ware County's Wiregrass Minutemen. Over in Alabama, the Dothan mall is Wiregrass Commons Mall.

CALENDAR

(April - November meetings subject to change)

MARCH 14 - Guale Room, St. Marys Library. Meeting with Patricia Barefoot, 7:00, Executive Session 6:30. APRIL - visit to Okefenokee MAY - Another Ramble JUNE - AUGUST - Downtime SEPTEMBER - Ramble OCTOBER -

Program meeting with election of officers NOVEMBER -
Program with report from officers, refreshments DECEMBER
- Merry Christmas!

MISCELLANEOUS

Two extra thank you's this issue to two extra special folks:
To LaVie Smallwood for the writeup in her widely read
weekly column "Out On A Limb" featured each Monday in the
"Florida Times-Union". She offered high praise for the revised
county history "Camden's Challenge", for Bryan-Lang His-
torical Library in Woodbine, and for Gule News. (and LaVie,
we are getting mail, based on your kind words.)

And to Mara Peterson for the outstanding program she
presented at the Society's February meeting. If you have not
seen the historical section of Kingsland lately, you should.
Hearing about the planning, securing of funds and the bricks
and mortar work that has gone into this accomplishment
heightens the appreciation for the changes.

Note to members and other newsletter recipients: If you
plan to move or have an address change, please notify news-
letter editor Eloise Thompson, P.O. Box 398, St. Marys, GA
31558. You would be astonished to learn how many newslet-
ters are returned to us, some with no forwarding addresses. Just
a postcard to let us know will be fine!

1995 MEMBERSHIP

These have joined Gule Historical Society to date (2/25).
If you should be listed and are not, please let Mildred Walko
know. If you have not yet joined, please send your new or
renewing dues to her at 800 Margaret Street, St. Marys, GA
31558.

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

FAMILIES: W.C. Kirby; Charles Davison, Greenwich,
Conn.; Dick Currier; Harold Heagy; George Simon; Herbert
Lang, Brunswick; Sam Lee; Tilden Norris; Jim Talley; Charles
Smith, Jr.; Charles Thompson; George Sweat, Jacksonville;
Henry Williams, Sr.; James Stacy; John Christian; Caroline
Covert; Roy Norton; Joe Chaney, Brunswick.

INDIVIDUALS: Charlton Bunkley; Dot Holstun; R.G.
Raymund, St. Simons; Geneva Stebbins, Darien; Carol
Rowland, Fernandina; Selma Bunkley, Brunswick; Bill Joyner
(95-96); Mayebelle Gilfillan, Mont Vista, Colorado; Bill Th-
ompson, Savannah; Kathryn Payne; Barbara Parrish, Jackson-
ville; Patricia Barefoot, Brunswick; Daphene Junk; George
Brown, Atlanta; Jean Hurt; Shirley Thompson; Edith
Willingham; Vickie Barwick (new); Lonnell Hogan, Jackson-
ville; Mary Miller, St. Simons; Sharon Napoli, Jacksonville;
Betsy Thomas; Ashley Proctor (new, student); Audrey Proc-
tor; Virginia Rowland, Mattapoisett, Mass.; Robert Ruchhoft,
Cincinnati, Ohio; Maxine Wells, Statesboro.