



Guale News

MARCH 1996

VOLUME 16, NO. 2

LET'S RAMBLE SATURDAY, MARCH 16 EVERYONE'S INVITED

Have you visited the McIntosh Sugarhouse Ruins lately?
Have you walked the Historic District of St. Marys lately?
Have you eaten at Abigail's?

All those and more are in the plans for Guale Historical Society's next meeting!! Eloise Thompson, tour guide.

DETAILS: Meet at 9:00 at the tabby ruins. Those are across from the main gate of the Sub Base, just north of the traffic light at Spur 40 and Kings Bay Road. Pull up to the sidewalk under the no parking sign (that's there for anyone hoping to park overnight) and there we will meet. Plan on about 45 minutes of walking, examining, talking.

If that is too early for you, then you may meet the group on the Conyers Street side of Orange Hall about 10:15. In the interest of time, the group will not go into the buildings, but you may do so on your own after lunch.

Among the points of interest will be the oldest documented house in St. Marys, the oldest church building and the oldest church (there is a difference). Would you like to know why the Toonerville Trolley is not the Toonerville Trolley or where the Washington Oak is today?

Do you know which three story building was constructed in 1876 for \$3600? Do you know where the oldest masonry bank building in Georgia stands? Do you know which house was visited by British soldiers during the War of 1812? (By the way, did you know that the last battle of the War of 1812 was NOT the Battle of New Orleans, but the Battle of Bridge Hammock here in Camden County.

Come hear and see the exciting history of this southeast corner of Georgia!

LUNCH - Lunch is scheduled for 12:30 at Abigail's located in the Morse-Gillis-Gay house (built in 1905 by ship pilot James A. Morse). The menu for this dutch treat lunch is a choice of Normandy chicken, breast of chicken served with French bread and a creamy pear sauce, or a grilled chicken salad plate.

The all inclusive price of \$10.50 includes their noted pre-lunch muffins, lunch choice, drink, dessert and gratuity.

We must have reservations for lunch so please call either Eloise at 882-4587 or Program Chairman Bill Joyner at 729-5475 by Monday, March 11 giving the number in your party and food choice.

All in all - Saturday, March 16 promises to be a good all round fun day!

GENEALOGY CORNER

Since we will be visiting John Houstoun McIntosh's sugarhouse, it is appropriate that we have some background of the McIntosh family.

In 1735, the ship PRINCE OF WALES sailed from Inverness in Scotland to Georgia. Among those aboard were the McIntoshes under their leader John Morh McIntosh. They landed at Tybee Island, then rowed down the inland waterway in small boats to settle at the mouth of the Altamaha and establish New Inverness on land now McIntosh County.

John McIntosh and his sons William, Lachlan, and George with his son-in-law Alexander Baillie were given Colonial Land Grants throughout that region.

Son George married Ann Priscilla Houstoun, daughter of Sir Patrick Houstoun. Besides his McIntosh lands, he also was granted lands in what was to become Camden County. Here, he held a grant on the Satilla River which in his son's ownership became known as Refuge Plantation. John Houstoun McIntosh was the only heir to George's lands and when he came of age settled first in Camden County, and later moved to Florida establishing several plantations there including one on Fort George Island, south of Amelia Island.

After an ill-fated attempt to take over Spanish Florida with other "Patriots", he returned to Camden County to lands he had bought near St. Marys, lands he named Marianna and New Canaan. He built his home at Marianna on Western Shore River (Marianna Creek). This is now included in Kings Bay Submarine Base. New Canaan held his sugarcane fields and extended throughout what is called today Sugarmill Plantation.

He and his wife Eliza Bayard McIntosh were buried at Marianna in a tabby enclosed graveyard. When the Army took over the lands of Kings Bay in 1955 prior to the Navy days, the graves were moved to Oak Grove Cemetery in St. Marys.

The McIntosh children were: John, Jr. who married Mary Higbee, then her sister Charlotte; George, who married Euphemia Hamilton; Catherine Ann, wife of Henry Sadler, and Eliza, who married General Duncan L. Clinch.

OAK GROVE CEMETERY

Last month Guale Historical Society contributed to grave repairs in Oak Grove Cemetery. In reply Cemetery Association member Lucy Redden wrote:

"On behalf of the Oak Grove Cemetery, I would like to thank the Historical Society for the generous donation made to our Association.

The money has already been put to good use. We have just completed restoring four graves in the old section."

Thank you again so much.

Sincerely,

Lucy Redden

FROM BRYAN-LANG HISTORICAL LIBRARY

Librarian Dr. John Christian announces that he and staff members have completed the compilation of several documents that will be invaluable to anyone working on Camden County history. These all may be ordered postpaid from the library at P.O. Box 725, Woodbine, GA 31569:

Census: 1820, 1830, 1840 \$5.00 each. (These list only head of household and the number of family members, names of family members were not listed on census records until 1850)

1850, 1860 \$10.00 each. (The 1860 was prepared by Ken Thomas and Tony Coursey and contains family footnotes)

1870, 1880 \$15.00 each

1900, 1910, 1920 \$20.00 each

Taxpayers 1889, 1890, 1891 \$5.00 each (Since there is no 1890 Georgia Census, these tax records are a good substitute)

FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

The Georgia Historical Society Winter edition of FOOTNOTES lists new collections that are now available for research



Can you identify this store in St. Marys? This picture was made in the 1950's.

You will see it on the March 16 Ramble

at the Historical Library in Savannah. Among them of particular interest to Camden County researchers are the papers of James S. Silva dating from 1888 to 1953. In 1914-1915 Mr. Silva wrote of his memories of Camden County as it was in the 1840's and published them in the *Southeast Georgian*. Several years ago Howard Davis, then editor of the *Georgian* published a collection of these articles, which give a good picture of the county, and mainly St. Marys, in booklet form. This booklet is long out of print, but a copy may be found in the Bryan-Lang Library.

The papers now offered for research are those of both James Silva and his son Frank Silva. His remembrances of St. Marys and Camden County are useful for he listed many of the citizens living then, described homes and businesses. The Silva collection also includes photographs of Savannah scenes showing among others the fire of 1889, the City Market and docks along the Savannah River.

James Silva was born in St. Marys in 1832, the son of Sylvester Silva, of the Azores, and Elizabeth Hannay Silva, a native of St. Marys. When James was only nine years old, Sylvester Silva died, and at the age of seventeen, James Silva moved to Savannah. Here he owned a glassware and crockery business.

He married Margaret Susan Askew and had two sons and a daughter. Mr. Silva is buried in Laurel Grove Cemetery in Savannah and his parents are buried in Oak Grove in St. Marys.

Reminders from last newsletter. The Georgia Historical Society's lecture series will continue on March 21 at 6:00 with speaker Dr. Martha Keber, subject "Marquis de Lafayette's Tour of Georgia, 1825". This will be in the Owen-Thomas House. On April 11 at 7:00 at Hodgson Hall, Virginia Steele Wood will present "A Visit to The Georgia Islands, 1753". Society member Mary R. Bullard and Mrs. Wood are coeditors of the *Journal* that is the subject of Mrs. Wood's lecture, and

it will soon be on sale by the University of Georgia Press. Both lectures are free and open to the public. For further information contact the Georgia Historical Society, 501 Whitaker Street, Savannah, GA 31499.

The Supreme Court Sesquicentennial Commission announces the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Supreme Court of Georgia. Society members have been invited to a reception and dinner on April 11th at the Georgia World Congress Center. The cost is \$75 per person. If you are interested, contact John Christian at the Bryan-Lang Historical Library for reservation information.

MEMBERSHIPS

Renewal response this year has been very good. Besides those listed in the last issue - these have joined or renewed through 2/22.

Grayson Day Family; George Sweat Family, Jacksonville; Stephen Cofer-Shabico Family (new); Susan Gay-Peterson Family (new), Seattle, WA; Roy Norton Family; Pauline Bossardet; William Thompson, Savannah; Pat Talley; Mary Miller, St. Simons; Bill Davis, Atlanta; Patricia Barefoot; Brunswick; George Brown, Atlanta; Thomas Cleland, Jacksonville; Josephine Demmond; R.G. Raymund, St. Simons; Carol Ruckdeschel; Debra Vasquez; Mary Bullard, So. Dartmouth, MA; Carlton Bunkley; Katherine Payne; Virginia Rowland, Mattapoisett, MA; Shirley Thompson; Edith Willingham.

If you've forgotten to renew, send dues to Treasurer Mildred Walko, 800 Margaret Street, St. Marys, GA 31558.

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

REMINDER: Call Bill Joyner at 729-5475 or Eloise Thompson at 882-4587 for lunch reservations or more details on the walking tour March 16.