



Guale News

MAY 1993

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BACK TO SUNBURY, SATURDAY MAY 8

As you remember, March 13 was the day scheduled for a trip to one of Georgia's dead towns and site of two early forts. March 13 was the day of the great 1993 winter storm. No one went! Hence it's back to Sunbury!!

Plans are the same. Meet at Bryan-Lang Historical Library in Woodbine at 8:30 to carpool. Then depart 9:00 on the dot to arrive at Sunbury in Liberty County at 10:00. A small entrance fee is charged to enter the grounds and museum of this historic site.

Sunbury, an active port in colonial days, is located ten miles east of Midway via State Road 39, a portion of the ancient Sunbury Road. It is located on Midway River overlooking the marshes and waterways leading to St. Catherine's Island.

After the tour, a Dutch Treat lunch at Cherokee Restaurant in Midway is planned. Reservations for lunch are necessary, so please call Program Chairman Henry Williams at 576-5421, or Eloise Bailey at 882-4587.

After lunch you may want to tour Midway Cemetery and museum on your own. Both are worth an hour or so time!

Check your last newsletter for details on Sunbury. Suggested readings given were Paul McIlvaine's *The Dead Towns of Sunbury*; C.C. Jones' *The Dead Towns of Georgia*; and Robert Groover's *Sweet Land of Liberty*.

See y'all May 8!!



Presentation of Camden's Challenge in 1976 to County Commission Chairman George Hannaford, on left. Compiler Marguerite Reddick (Deceased), standing on right. Camden County Historical Commission members are seated; Edna Armstrong and Matilda Bridges; standing Virginia Proctor, Howard Davis, Eloise Bailey, G.C. Harrell (Deceased), and Mignon Sterling.

BIG NEWS - COUNTY HISTORY TO BE REPRINTED!

All copies of Camden's Challenge, the county history published in 1976, have been sold, and work has now started on a new updated version. This will contain the same material but with added and upgraded information associated with the changes occurring since the opening of the Naval Submarine Base at Kings Bay.

The Board of County Commissioners unanimously agreed to fund the publishing of the history at their March 16 meeting. Partial payment will come from proceeds of the first printing.

A tentative publication date is set for December, according

to Peggy Aronson who will act as compiler. The Camden County Historical Commission will be assisting in this tremendous project.

If you have information or pictures of outstanding events that have happened since 1976, please contact Mrs. Aronson at 729-5746.

FAMILY AND CHURCH HISTORIES, CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS INFORMATION NEEDED

Although April 30 was set for receiving updated family sheets, many of you out-of-town members with county connections have not had the opportunity to submit your sheets of corrections and additions to your family histories. If you will act immediately, you may still get them in.

Non-local members may call or write Bryan-Lang Historical Library and ask that forms be sent and return them ASAP to P. O. Box 725, Woodbine, GA. 31569. Phone number is (912) 576-5601 ext 219. There is no charge to be included in the book.

Local members may get sheets at the Bryan-Lang Camden County Library in Kingsland, the Kings Bay Library or St. Marys City Library.

Completed forms should be mailed to Peggy Aronson, 985 Crooked River Lane, Woodbine, GA. 31569.

INTRODUCING:

Guale Historical Society Member Peggy Aronson, who will be compiling the new information for the county history. Peggy is enthusiastic and excited about the prospects of updating the book, and is especially well qualified. She is a professional free lance writer, and has published several articles of local interest in state-wide and national magazines.

She and her husband Bob, a Naval Officer in the Submarine Service, are residents of London Hill, and have lived in Camden County since 1988.

Good luck Peggy in this undertaking!!

REMINDER

The annual family reunion of Lang descendants will be held at Crooked River State Park on Sunday, June 13 at 12:00 noon. This is a covered dish lunch.

FROM THE FILES

A brief interesting bit of history may be found in George White's *Historical Collections of Georgia*, printed in 1854. The Reverend White has this to say about Camden County: "This county was formerly embraced in the Parishes of St. Thomas and St. Marys; but in 1777 these were formed into the County of Camden and named after the Earl of Camden, the fearless champion of Colonial rights. Part taken from Wayne, 1805; part added to Wayne, 1808."

"The streams of most importance are the St. Marys (Thlathlothlaguphka) Indian name signifying rotten fish, St. Illa, and Little St. Illa."

"Jefferson, the seat of justice, is situated on the south side of St. Illa River. It is 25 miles from St. Marys, 28 from Brunswick, and 50 from Darien.

"St. Marys is beautifully situated on the north side of the St. Marys River, nine miles from, and in sight of the ocean. It has a fine harbor, being accessible to the largest vessels. Centreville is a place of considerable businesses. Coleraine is 45 miles from St. Marys, Burnt Fort is on the St. Illa.

"Extract from the Census of 1850: Dwellings 400, families 400, white male 1028, white females 1,041; free black males 3; free black females 1. Total free population 2,073; slaves 4,246; death 61; farms 235; manufacturing establishments 5; value of real estate, \$694,712; value of personal estate, \$1,843,466.

"Among the early settlers of this county were Henry Osborne, Talmage Hall, James Armstrong, Jacob Weed, Henry Wright, John Fleming, James Woodland, Thomas Stafford, Langley Bryant, Wm. Reddy, Hugh Brown, John King.

"Cumberland is the most important of the islands. The Indian name of Cumberland Island was Missoe. The name was changed when Oglethorpe visited it, at the request of an Indian chief who has received some kindness from the Duke of Cumberland, to that of Cumberland....

"On the north end of the island, or rather on Little Cumberland, is a lighthouse sixty feet high, with a revolving light, which can be seen at sea twenty miles. Dungeness, formerly General Greene's property is on this island....."

REMINDER ABOUT DUES!!!!

Check for a red star on your mailing label. If one is there, there is no record of your having paid your 1993 dues!! Please do so as soon as possible.

Mail to Mildred Walko, 800 Margaret St., St. Marys, GA 31558.

Family \$15.00; Individual \$8.00; Student \$2.00