



# Guale News

MAY 1996

VOLUME 15, NO. 3

## RAMBLERAMBLERAMBLE

When? Saturday, May 25.

Time? Leave Bryan-Lang Historical Library in Woodbine at 8:30.

Where? Black Hammock at north end of Camden County.

A couple of years ago Bill and Teresa Kirby, owners of Black Hammock and Historical Society members, invited the group to visit their historical home overlooking the marshes between Glynn and Camden counties. They have issued another invitation now, and you'll not want to miss the opportunity to visit one of the three remaining plantation houses still standing in Camden County.

It is situated off the Dover Bluff Road at the mouth of the Little Satilla River and is on lands granted to John Tompkins in the late 1700s. He developed part of this into farmlands, and sold the plantation to Nathan Atkinson in 1800. After Nathan's death it passed on to the Atkinson children and remained in family hands until W.C. Kirby bought it. Bill (W.C., Jr.) and Teresa have done a great restoration job on the house and grounds. The old Atkinson family cemetery is near the house.

### DETAILS...

Leave from the Bryan-Lang, go out Horse Stamp Road from Waverly, stopping at Horse Stamp Church, Ella Park Church and Ella Park Cemetery. We will be through with the Ramble by lunch, and you will be on your own. There is a Rawl's Barbecue stand at the intersection of I-95 and Dover Bluff Road or you will not be too far from other eating spots at the next exit north.

Guests are invited. If you have questions, call Program Chairman Bill Joyner 729-5475 or Newsletter Editor Eloise Thompson 882-4587



**BLACK HAMMOCK PLANTATION HOUSE,**  
*Home of Mr. and Mrs. W.C. Kirby*

### GENEALOGY CORNER - NATHAN ATKINSON

The following information from PIONEERS OF WIREGRASS GEORGIA, volume 5.

Nathan Atkinson, who was buried in the family cemetery at Black Hammock, was born in Virginia in 1758. He served in the Revolutionary War. After moving to Georgia, he married Sallie Stevens. According to her tombstone, she was born July 31, 1774 and died December 20, 1817, buried in the family cemetery.

Nathan first established Bourbon Plantation in Camden County near today's Waverly, then bought Black Hammock in 1800. According to PWG, Mr Atkinson "was very successful in life, becoming wealthy and influential in his adopted county". Nathan Atkinson died April 1, 1817.

His children were: JOHN, born 1788, married Mary Fernandez. He died in 1820 and was buried on Montfort Island on the south side of the Satilla River.

ALEXANDER, born August 17, 1796, never married. He was murdered June 20, 1840 and was buried at Black Hammock.

NANCY, born 1799, married William Lang. She died September 30, 1876 and is buried beside

her husband in the Lang Cemetery at Sitalla Bluff. She and her husband owned the Cambray Plantation. This house still stands south of Woodbine.

EDMUND, born in 1801, married Sarah Waddel, daughter of Moses. Edmund died March 19, 1862 and is buried at Black Hammock beside his wife.

Others buried in the Black Hammock Cemetery are: Alexander Atkinson (1836 - 1912), Elizabeth Pleasant Atkinson (1838 - 1839), John Cecil Atkinson (1840 - 1841), Polly Atkinson (1806 - 1807), Sallie Atkinson (1804 - 1807) and Sarah Constance Atkinson (1878 - 1881).

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### COLERAINE BICENTENNIAL

Two hundred years ago on June 29, 1796, a Treaty of Peace was signed between the President of the United States and the Kings, Chiefs, and Warriors of the Creek Nations of Indians. This was ratified March 18, 1797.

Benjamin Hawkins, George Clymer and Andrew Pickens represented President Washington. According to George White's HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS OF GEORGIA on the 16th of June, at half-past ten, all the kings, head men and warriors, to the number of four hundred, marching under the flag of the United States, came to the Commissioners who were standing with the officers of the garrison then stationed at the fort at Coleraine.

The Indians danced the eagle tail dance, and six of the principal kings then took the Commissioners by the hand and handed them their pipes. The Commissioners then lit them and smoked.

The Commissioners then spoke, offered the Indians a drink and a smoking of their pipes. A sixteen gun salute was fired and the Indians were entertained "with wine and spirits".

That was the opening day. Negotiations continued until June 29, when the treaty was completed and signed. No land was ceded, the agreement was simply a pledge of peace on the part of the Indians. However the days ended with a note of discord when General James Jackson, representing the State of Georgia remarked that the Creeks has been "faithless" in observing their treaties with the state. He showed two papers listing property amounting to one hundred and ten thousand dollars that the Indians had stolen and which he thought should be repaid.

"The Indians listened with profound attention...the Big Warrior... facetiously remarking, "I can fill up more paper than Jackson has done, with a list a similar outrages of the Georgians upon my people".

One of St. Marys founders James Seagrove was also among those at the signing for this trading post was located at this site



**HISTORICAL MARKER AT COLERAINE**

and he was the Indian Agent for his area. Coleraine is located on the St. Marys River off Highway 40 near Charlton County. It is on private land and not accessible.

A granite boulder marking the spot was erected in 1912 by the Lyman Hall Chapter of the DAR from Waycross.

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### ONE PERSON'S OPINION

In this bicentennial year of the Coleraine Treaty signing, a bit of history has been destroyed by the City of Kingsland in renaming a portion of one of the nation's most historical roads, Coleraine Road. The strip from Gross Road east to US 17 has been renamed Laurel Island Parkway, drawing attention to Kingsland's new golf course which is to open this fall.

For the benefit of you Society members who live outside Camden County, a bit of controversy has arisen over this change. It is true that a public hearing was held. What is also true, is that many of us who are vitally interested in things historical, missed the notice. Editors of both local papers have now commented that it was after the fact that excitement was generated. Even though at this writing it appears that nothing can be done to change the name back, the editors should note that folks do care. Care about our county's history, care about the historical names and care enough to want to preserve what can be preserved in this era of overnight development.

Two suggestions I have. And the first one rests with all of us who are members of the Historical Society, that we pay attention. Pay attention to what is in the newspapers, especially to notices of meetings that might impact historical sites. Then attend those meetings and speak out to the city or county officials who are involved.

The second suggestion is this. That all city and county officials be aware of the history of this area. Camden County is one of the original counties of the State of Georgia. It is true that municipal officers have a lot to cope with these days, but it is essential that they try to retain as much of our background as possible. When it is once taken away, it can not be recovered.

As the old saying goes "...no people who are indifferent to their past need hope to make their future great."

And this is just Eloise's opinion.

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### NEWS FROM WOODBINE

The Woodbine United Methodist Church celebrated its 100th Anniversary on May 5. The church's earliest records date to May 3, 1896 with its opening following on the heels of Woodbine's establishment as a town in 1893. Most of the first members transferred from Antioch Church at Colesburg and Forest View in Floyd's Neck.

J.K. Bedell donated the land and materials and paid for the original building's construction. This building still stands, but was modernized with brick exterior and other improvements in the 30s and 40s.

Frank Whitford designed and built the building, as well as the pews and pulpit. The first minister was the Reverend Shade Brown. The first Sunday School superintendent was Mr. Bedell. James Oliver Dyal, Jr. was the first baby baptized in the church. Miss Agnes Mizell and Marvin Robertson were the first to be married there. The first parsonage was built in 1908. (CAMDEN'S CHALLENGE)

A new sanctuary opened in 1995.

CONGRATULATIONS - to Dr. John Christian, Guale Historical Society president and director of Bryan-Lang Historical Library, for being named Camden County Employee of the Month by the county commissioners.

- to St. Marys for being named the #1 small "Boom Town" in the nation by Money Magazine. If you missed the article, its in the April edition.

### JUST IN PASSING

Several years ago, Camden County Commissioners worked with Guale Historical Society members to preserve one of Camden County's few remaining cow dipping vats. To those of you who are not of the free ranging cattle era, cows were not pastured, but allowed to roam throughout the woods grazing at will.

In time, a cow tick fever struck the cattle, killing many and sickening others. It spread throughout south Georgia and north Florida. Killing these disease carrying ticks became a major project. A number of men were employed by the government to build vats, help in rounding up the cattle, and aid in driving them into the vats containing a solution to eradicate the ticks. Upon leaving the vat each cow was marked with paint, then woods riders on horseback surveyed the county to be sure each cow had been treated, and at that time MANY cows roamed the county.

The commissioners fenced this surveying vat located west of Woodbine just off 110 Bullhead Bluff Road. Former Society member Dolly Horne has called to say that the weeds within the enclosure are so high that they obscure the vat.

Will some society member with a grass sling or weed eater please check on this? It would take about thirty minutes time. If you can clear around the vat, then please call John Christian at Bryan-Lang Library. 576-5841

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### MEMBERSHIP

The latest membership count on May 4 is 55 individuals and 38 families.

Update since last newsletter:

Families - Rodney Sheffield (New); Flem Hall; H.A. Bennett; Tilden Norris; Joe Chaney Family, Brunswick; Frank Saffold; P.B. Howell, Leesburg; W.C. Kirby; Hubert Lang, Brunswick; Terrell Porter; Stanely Walko.

Individuals - Kay Johnson, Fernandina; Virginia Proctor; Dorothy McCaskill, St. Simons; Mary McLaughlin, Jacksonville; Juanita Brooks (New) Hazel Marr (New); Carolyn Anderson (Fernandina); Mrs. Joseph Clements; L.T. Hogan, Jacksonville; Audrey Proctor; Ashley Proctor (Student); Laura Nasworthy (Student), St. George; Roland Hernandez, Jacksonville.

If you have a red mark on your mailing label, our records show that you have not yet paid for 1996. Send dues to Mildred Walko, 800 Maragaret Street, St. Marys, GA 31558.

FAMILY \$ 15    INDIVIDUAL \$ 8    STUDENT \$ 2

Have a happy summer! The next Historical society meeting and the next issue of the Guale News will be in September.

REMINDER: Ramble to Black Hammock. Saturday, May 25. Leave from Bryan-Lang Historical Library in Woodbine at 8:30 sharp.