



GET ABOARD FOR A JUNE MEETING TOUR KINGS BAY SUB BASE FRIDAY, JUNE 6

DETAILS: 9:30 Meet bus at Main Gate (Stimson) Parking Lot

- 10:00 Tour Trident Training Facility
- 11:45 Lunch at the Galley, Cafeteria Style. Dutch Treat, \$2.75 per person
- 1:00 Tour Submarine (if one is in port, if not tour will end after lunch)
- 2:45 Return to main gate

MORE DETAILS: Wear comfortable shoes, a lot of walking and stair climbing.

Your names and those of your guests **MUST** be turned in by May 26. Space is limited so get your reservations in early! Call Program Chairman Rodney Sheffield at 729-5245 or Newsletter Editor Eloise Thompson at 882-4587.

KINGS BAY BACKGROUND

Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base sits on one of the most historical spots in Camden County with homesites dating to the 1700s. Archaeological studies of thirty-four sites were done before the base was completed. These printed records are available at Bryan-Lang Historical Library in Woodbine.

Kings, Woodlands, Johnstons and McIntoshes were among the very first families living in Kings Bay. The Pacettis and Frohocks were early settlers, too, but came a little later.

Although two King families were contemporaries in Kings Bay, there is no evidence that they were related. John King had his homesite at Cherry Point on the north end of the base. Thomas King's plantation was south of John Kings, and it is his name that was given to the bay and thus to the entire area.

The house site of Thomas King was directly on the bay, and before that section of the base was developed it was excavated thoroughly. The studies uncovered the house site as well as several slave houses. Tabby bricks from the home were preserved for a future as-yet-undecided historical project and are in the possession of Guale Historical Society.

John King arrived from North Carolina late in the 1700s and settled on land granted him at Cherry Point. It is believed that he and his wife Jane Morehead are buried on the old plantation site, but no evidence of the family cemetery has been found. His son James later moved west of what is now Kingsland, and James's grandson William Henry King is considered Kingsland's founder. Many King descendants are in Camden County.

The McIntosh family was covered in the March issue of the Guale News. Its homeplace Marianna overlooked Western Shore River (Marianna Creek). The tabby wall of the family cemetery was left in place after the bodies were moved to Oak Grove Cemetery in St. Marys.

William Johnstone's mill just below the Thomas King plantation appears with the two King homesites as well as Sunflower Bluff and Laurel Bluff on a 1790s map.

John Pacetti moved from St. Marys to Kings Bay in the mid-1800s. Many of his descendants were still living at Kings Bay when the army base was established. One of the Pacettis houses was moved and still stands near the entrance to Crooked River State Park.

Frohock descendants were also among those uprooted from their ancestral homes with the arrival of the military.

Before the U.S. Army arrived at Kings Bay, unpaved roads led from homeplace to homeplace and in many cases lost sites were still marked by flowing artesian wells.

At least two schools were located there, one at Cherry Point and the other at Bridge Hammock. Both Methodist and Baptist churches served the surrounding residents.

Timbering, naval stores, cattle raising and the fishing industry were main sources of income. Hunting was popular among residents and visitor alike. The Marianna Club house, built as the home of L.M. Bedell and later sold to a hunting club, was moved to the banks of Crooked River west of Crooked River State Park and is now the home of Winston Barlow.

In this century many summer and permanent homes were built throughout Kings Bay, all moved or razed when the government bought the lands. Hargraves, Rivals, Ryals, Greens, Wilsons, Simpsons, and Davises were among those moving.

In 1955, the U.S. Army acquired 7000 acres of Kings Bay land to be used as an ammunition handling facility. It had limited military use and the 2000 foot wharf was leased to Blue Star Shipping.

In July 1978 the Army transferred control to the U.S. Navy, and construction began on the submarine base with the addition of even more property. One year later subtender USS SIMON LAKE arrived from Rota, Spain to its new home port of Kings Bay. A few days later the first sub USS JAMES MONROE arrived. Today Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base is responsible for the tremendous swell in Camden County's population which is projected to reach 74,511 by 2001, according to GEORGIA TREND.

For more Kings Bay historical information, read the Kings Bay chapter in 1993 edition of CAMDEN'S CHALLENGE.

PRESBYTERIANS 175 YEARS OLD

On Sunday June 1, the St. Marys First Presbyterian Church will celebrate its 175th anniversary with a special worship service at 4:00 with a reception following in the social hall. Guests will be welcome. Pat Talley and Susan Lee are in charge of arrangements.

Church member Herbert Rowland is preparing exhibits portraying the church history. This mini-museum will include pictures, relics and video interviews with long time church members. To see this rare collection visit Orange Hall on June 1 from 12 to 7.

Anniversary Plates will be available.

The Presbyterian Church is the oldest standing church building in St. Marys and the second oldest documented congregation. The building itself was constructed on land given by the City of St. Marys in 1808. Construction began that same year with a public subscription of \$3,442 financing this non-denomination church.

Horace Pratt, Presbyterian missionary from New Jersey came to St. Marys in 1821 to find religion in the church in "a very low and languishing state, having existence in name only." The Presbytery of Georgia organized the St. Marys Presbyterian Church in June 1822 with 29 members. The Georgia Legislature incorporated the Independent Presbyterian Church in 1828 with an amendment changing this to First Presbyterian Church four years later.



Presbyterian Church as it appeared before 1898.
North end of building.

The building located in the National Register Historic District of St. Marys is the oldest Presbyterian Church in continuous use in Georgia.

A major change in the appearance of the church was made in the 1890s when the entrance was changed from a double stairway on the east side was changed to the entrance on the south. The steeple and another entrance leading to a gallery were on the north wall. According to the diary of Jennie Hopper Miller (mother of Elsie McDowell) this work was almost completed in August 1898, when she wrote "Mama and I took a walk to look at the church steeple, is almost finished, looks nice...." On September 21 she wrote "the steeple is finished and now they are going to fix the inside."

Some of the early church families appearing on the 1843 church roll are: Aldrich, Bacon, Bessant, Chapelle, Clark, Dalany, Doolittle, Dubose, Geer, Hallowes, Hardee, Helverson, Howell, King, Miller, McGillis, McIntosh, Mark, Nicol, Pottle, Richardson, Sadler, Barr, Sterling, McNeil, Baker.

A PRESBYTERIAN MINISTER

The Reverend James Cooper Cozby followed Horace Pratt as minister of the Presbyterian Church in 1837. Church records describe him as "that meek and holy man of God - his life spared just long enough to make manifest his great excellence and our incalculable loss."

The church erected an impressive marker to his memory in Oak Grove Cemetery:

"Died Nov. 27, 1837, Pastor by 5 months of the Presbyterian Church in St. Marys. The memory of the just is blessed. His remains repose in the Cemetery in Midway, Liberty County, but the recollection of his Christian meekness and humility of his faithfulness & ardent devotion, to the cause of Christ, lives in the heart of his mourning congregation who have erected this stone."

The marker in the Midway Cemetery says:

"Rev. James Cozby Pastor of the Presbyterian Church in St. Marys died Nov. 27, 1837.

As an humble tribute of their affection and testimony to his worth, his bereaved congregation has raised this stone and erected also a Monument to his memory in St. Marys, the scene of his short, but useful labors.

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."

James Cozby, born in 1810, married Hannah Maria Randolph (1805-1858). They had a son who was only three months old when his father died. James Cozby's widow married Nathaniel Varnedoe of Liberty County. The son James Smith Cozby married Mary Law and also became a Presbyterian minister. He died in Clarkesville, Georgia September 10, 1894, survived by two sons and two daughters.

BRYAN-LANG LIBRARY 10 YEARS OLD

Ten years ago, Bryan-Lang Historical Library held its grand opening with special guest Miss Beatrice Lang. A reception will be held this July commemorating that event. Watch the local papers for details.

LANGS, LANGS AND MORE LANGS

The 70th annual Lang Reunion will be held Sunday, June 8 beginning at 12 noon. All descendants of Isaac and Catherine Lang are invited to bring a picnic lunch and meet at Crooked River State Park in Camden County. Other cousins are also invited.

FROM OTHER SOCIETIES

The Georgia Historical Society is offering its 1997 Summer Lecture Series: Ethnic Influences in Early Georgia

All programs are held at Hodgson Hall in Savannah, 501 Whitaker Street, and are free and open to the public. Parking is available at the lot on corner of Barnard and Gaston.

June 5, 7:00 pm WHY SAVANNAH JEWS ARE SOUTHERN, Dr. Mark Greenberg, Historian at Museum of Southern Jewish Experience in Jackson, Mississippi

July 10, 7:00 pm WILLIAM BARTRAM AND THE DARIEN SCOTS, Dr. Edward Cashing, Augusta State University.

The Georgia Salzburger Society, founded in 1926, offers memberships at \$15 a year, its purpose: "to preserve the memory of Georgia Salzburgers and descendants through landmarks, monuments, genealogies, records, histories, lectures, celebrations, fellowship, and a museum." The Society publishes a quarterly newsletter and books on Salzburg history and genealogy, holds meetings focusing on the Salzburgers. For more information or to become a member write GSS, 2980 Ebenezer Road, Rincon, GA 31326.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Regular account: \$4,380.07

Trust account: \$17,058.83. This fund was established by family members to care for the Hawkins/Bachlott cemetery lot and the Davis lot in Oak Grove Cemetery.

NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Roy and Iris Norton have graciously agreed to serve as chairmen of the 1997 Nominating Committee. Election of officers takes place at the October meeting.

MEMBERS

Members to date: Thirty-four families. Forty-four individuals. If a red star appears by your name your dues have not been paid.

Those renewing since last newsletter: Haze and Judy Buchanan; Bill Joynor Family; Tilden and Arlene Norris; William Stoddard Family (98-99); Stanley Walko Family; William Thompson, Savannah; Juanita Brooks; Hazel Marr; Genevieve Silvear; Pauline Bosserdet; Charlton County Historical Society; Carol Ruckdeschel; Jack Seals, Bellevue, WA; Rowland Hernandez, Jacksonville.

If your check is not in the mail, send to Treasurer Mildred Walko, 800 Margaret St., St. Marys, GA 31558. Individual \$8 Family \$15 Student \$2

REMINDER

Phone in your reservation for the June 6 tour of Kings Bay by May 26. 729-5245 or 882-4587. This will end the spring meetings, next meeting in September.