



Guale News

MAY 1998

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PATRICIA BAREFOOT TO SPEAK PLAN TO MEET, TUESDAY, MAY 12 BRYAN-LANG HISTORICAL LIBRARY 7:00, Executive Session 6:30

Patricia Barefoot, National Park Service Ranger and Columnist, has a long-standing interest in coastal Georgia. She is a native of Glynn County, but her maternal line has deep roots in Camden. Her historical writings have covered southeast Georgia from the St. Marys River to the Altamaha and surrounding counties.

Now her interest is centered on the story of the north end of Camden County, touching particularly on the Post Road and Dover Bluff.

You will enjoy hearing the program as she enlightens, elucidates and entertains.

NOTE: Meeting will be in Woodbine, Bryan-Lang. It is located a block off US 17 near the courthouse.

WHAT IS THE POST ROAD?

According to the historical marker located where the road crosses U.S. 17 "The road, formerly an Indian trail which paralleled the coast, was used by the Spanish and the British. In 1778 it was travelled by Revolutionary soldiers who marched against Fort Tonyn at Point Peter. (Ed. note - later studies proved that Fort Tonyn was not at Point Peter, but on the St. Marys River at the Kings Road crossing.) Albert Gallatin while U.S. Secretary of the Treasury in 1805 recommended the Old St. Marys Road, a portion of the Post Road, as one of the seven principal routes that were important in U.S. defense and postal service."

The Post Road in Camden County extends northwest from St. Marys, forking just west of the I-95. The Colerain section bends to the southwest toward Colerain, the site of an ancient Indian trading post on the St. Marys River. The north fork crosses Crooked River just east of its headwaters and goes northwesterly to cross the Satilla River at Jefferson.

Although no evidence of them remains, wooden markers were placed at one mile intervals along the Post Road in the last century. Even today, sites are sometimes located by referring to the "seven mile post" or "five mile post".

With time, and as new sections were added to Georgia's road system, the Post Road has been called by other names: Indian Trail, Spanish Bridle Path, Old Train Road (for wagon trains of traders and settlers), Old Market Road.

The north fork of the Post Road in Camden County led from the Satilla River to cross the Altamaha River at Fort Barrington and connect with another road leading to Savannah and with another to Milledgeville, state capital of Georgia from 1807-1867.

The Post Road marks the county line between Glynn and Brantley counties and between Glynn and Wayne. Shirley Thompson's WOODBINE TWINETH includes the photo of the granite marker near the Waycross-Brunswick highway marking the Post Road in Brantley County. This was placed there by the Brunswick Chapter of the DAR. Sections of the Post Road are still open to traffic.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT RE-MAILINGS

Many Camden County addresses have been changed. If yours is one of those -PLEASE- send your new address to the newsletter so your copy won't be delayed. Send address change to Guale News, P. O. Box 398, St. Marys, GA 31558. Do NOT send to Treasurer. (Thanks, Trish, for getting yours in immediately.)

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Help! Help! At the February meeting of Guale Historical Society Rodney Sheffield proposed a committee to locate and eventually catalog county cemeteries that are lost, inaccessible, or subject to destruction. Work has started in pinpointing these with plans to begin cataloging in the fall.

Volunteers who have offered their help are Juanita Brooks, Virginia Proctor, Joyce O'Quinn, Hazel Marr, Susan Lee, James

Stacy, Bill Joyner, Helen Lang, Linda Rice, Libby Bass, Jim Boone.

Further help is needed now from anyone else that knows of any cemetery that should be listed. If you are familiar with an unidentified cemetery or know someone that is, please contact Rodney at 729-5245. If you would like to be included in those fall treks, please let him know.

CEMETERY QUESTION ??????

Can anyone add information to this - in the southwest quadrant of the historic section of Oak Grove Cemetery in St. Marys may be found a number of graves grouped together. Three are marked with military markers. The others have only small cement slabs. Remains of a coping can be found at dirt level. It is said that all of these are Confederate graves. Do you know if they died as a group? Did burials take place during the war? As old soldiers died, were they buried with their comrades over a period of several years? Please let Eloise Thompson know if you have any information. Any scrap of news will be appreciated (912-882-4587).

LANG REUNION

The 74th annual Lang Reunion is scheduled for Sunday, June 14th at 12:30 at Crooked River State Park. All descendants of Isaac Lang, Jr. and his wife Catherine Atkinson Lang are invited, as well as other Lang cousins. Special recognition will be given to the second oldest, the youngest and the family traveling the farthest. So bring your covered dish and sand gnat spray to join your cousins for a day of remembering when! If you have questions call Hubert Lang at 912-265-4413.

20TH ANNIVERSARY

It's hard to believe but Guale Historical Society has been in existence twenty years. Many members have come and gone, many have remained members. If you have ideas for a fall "party", please contact Dr. Christian at the Bryan-Lang 576-5841

GENEALOGY CORNER

The following information comes from Society member Shirley Joiner Thompson's WOODBINE TWINETH, the history of her many Camden County lines.

CLABERN WRIGHT HARRELL and his wife Lucretia Highsmith are ancestors of Shirley Thompson and Patricia Barefoot.

Clabern Wright Harrell was born March 3, 1825 in Camden County near Tarboro, a son of Abner Harrell, Jr. and his first wife reputed to be a Taylor. He married Lucretia Highsmith, a daughter of David and Annis Highsmith. (David and Annis were first cousins) on March 14, 1850. Lucretia was born March 18, 1830.

Clabern served in the Civil War in Co. C, 4th Ga. Cav. from March 1861 to the close of the war in 1865. In 1875 Clabern received 300 acres in Camden County under the Headright and Bounty Land Acts and another 54 acres in 1887. He was a farmer and woodsman.

The Clabern Harrell large two-story house was located on the east side of the Post Road. It was built before the Civil War and the chimney brick were handmade from clay in the area. The kitchen was a separate building where the family cooked on a large wood stove. The front porch extending the length of the house was shaded by a wisteria vine. When WOODBINE TWINETH was written in 1972 the chimney still stood, and several of the old pecan trees were still alive.

Clabern Harrell died November 3, 1902 and is buried in the Crum family cemetery near the home of his son Abner Harrell. His grave is marked with a Confederate marker. Lucretia died December 17, 1905 and is buried in the Bickley Chapel Cemetery.

Their children were:

Abner David (1853-1923) married Catherine Drury
Wealthy Surrency

Marian Westanne (1855-1932) married Robert Wiley Joiner
(Shirley's & Patricia's line)

Joseph Mitchell (1857-1915) married Jane Oceanne
Flemming

Ella (1859-1926) married Henry G. Ribron
Robert Christopher (1860-1938) married Susan Amanda

Godley

James Franklin (1862-1927) married Mary Etta

Highsmith

John Wesley (1865-1919) married Eula Lee Tomlinson

Maria Estelle (1867-1934) married Cornelius W. Drury

THANK YOU TO----

James Stacy and Rodney Sheffield, who cleaned the area around the cow dipping vat off Highway 110 near Bullhead Bluff.

All who participated in April's Walking Tour of St. Marys. It was a successful day.

All who helped make the trip to Linda Plantation such a worthwhile trip - a good time was had by all!

Mildred Walko who keeps up so well with the financial end of the Society and all the memberships.

PINEY WOODS, SWAMP WATER AND 'GATER TALES, AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A COUNTRY LAWYER has just been published by Gualle Society member and Lang descendant P.B. Howell, Jr. of Leesburg, Florida. One reviewer described him as having "the mind of a Ph.D., a heart after God and a wit likened to Will Rogers. P.B. Howell is the kind of man who is a blessing to be around or read about." What a wonderful legacy for his four daughters, six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. If you would like to know more about his book, you may contact him at 603 Gibson Street, Leesburg, FL 34748.

FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

* Camden County Public Library is offering lectures of local interest at the library. Each one starts at 7:00 and no admission is charged.

May 14th: Dr. Ervin Garrison will be discussing the Civil War Period. Dr. Garrison is professor of Anthropology and Geology at the University of Georgia.

May 21st: Rusty Fleetwood, author of TIDECRAFT, the history of coastal watercraft, and expert on the boats and ships of this region will give an overview of maritime history.

May 28th: Dr. Michael Cannon, author of DRUMBEATS, the story of submarine warfare along the coast during World War II will discuss the Liberty Ships and naval activity during the war.

* From "Footnotes" - The Georgia Historical Society has received the largest single gift in its history. Cash, portraits and papers totalling nearly \$1 million. This was a bequest from the estate of Mary Faith Wilson of Washington, D.C. and a descendant of Camden County's John Floyd.

The cash has been used to set up the John Floyd Endowment Fund with the interest to be used for operating expenses. The bequest also included family portraits and genealogical material compiled by Miss Wilson and her mother Mary Faith McAdoo Wilson. The collection is being processed and will soon be available for research.

Coming up - Savannah Sojourn, GHS's annual antiques show and sale, May 15-17. For information or reservations call GHS at 912-651-2125.

* Society member Mary Bullard's opera ZABETTE based on her Robert Stafford book is scheduled for its student premier on Saturday, May 23, 7:30 pm at Georgia State University in Atlanta. Admission is free. For further information call the School of Music 404-651-3676.

BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS

Buddy Sullivan's most recent book THE DARIEN JOURNAL OF JOHN GIRADEAU LEGARE, RICE PLANTER is a must read for coastal residents. Buddy's notes add to this treasure of a journal depicting a McIntosh County planter and citizen. \$25. For local readers it is available at Once Upon a Bookseller, as well as his earlier books EARLY DAYS ON THE GEORGIA TIDEWATER, THE STORY OF MCINTOSH COUNTY AND SAPELO. \$40. The smaller LAPELS book is also of interest, \$8.

Those of you who have been reared among the pine trees and remember the aroma of pine gum and turpentine stills will be interested in TREASURES OF THE LONGLEAF PINES: NAVAL STORES. This is just off the press and authored by Carroll B. Butler who describes his five year project as "the first comprehensive documentation of this once vibrant industry". You may order it from Tarkel Publishing, PO Box 45 Shallmar, FL 32579. \$46 includes postage.

Another new publication by the Univ. of Ga. Press: "WHAT NATURE SUFFERS TO GROE" LIFE, LABOR AND LANDSCAPE ON THE GEORGIA COAST, 1680-1920 by Mart A. Stewart. Beginning with the agricultural experiments of the Georgia Trustees, he then covers the plantation culture of rice and cotton and on into the postbellum society of freedmen, lumbermen and truck farmers. This may be ordered from the UGA Press, 330 Research Drive, Athens, GA 30602-4901. This book is \$46 plus tax and plus postage of \$3.00.

Watch for a red mark on mailing label. That means that we have no record of your 1998 payment. Send to Mildred Walko, 800 Margaret Street, St. Marys, GA 31558.

• Individual \$8 • Family \$15 • Student \$2.

Members renewing since last newsletter and before 4/20: Terrell Porter Family; Austin Hutchinson Family (new); Tikden Norris Family; Eugene Sheffield Family, Melbourne (new); Thomas Nesbitt Family, Jacksonville; George Sweat Family, Jacksonville; Charlton County Historical Society; Catherine MacDonell; Mrs. Joseph Clements; Josephine Demmond; Patricia Gay (new); R. G. Raymond, St. Simons; Laverne Watson (new); Jackie Biggane, No. Miami; George Hannaford; Barbara Parrish, Jacksonville; Ruby Permitt, St. George; Virginia Rowland, Mattapoissett; Derek McAleer Family (new); William Kirk Family, West River, Maryland; Stanley Walko Family; Vernon Johnson Family; Roy Norton Family; Grayson Day Family; Bill Joyner Family; Roland Hernandez, Jacksonville; Pat Williams; Joyce O'Quinn (new); Carolyn Kates, Jacksonville (new); Linda Rice (new); Kent Chauncey, Orem, Utah; Daphene Junk; Jean Lowie (new); Patricia Barefoot, Brunswick; Kathleen Davis, Fernandina; Betty Gruver, Homerville; Kathryn Payne; Laura Nasworthy, St. Georgia. 1998 memberships: 45 families, 62 individuals.

Last newsletter until September! Summer vacation is upon us and the first meeting of fall will be in September. Stay tuned. Ware County historian Robert Hurst and McIntosh County historian Buddy Sullivan are among the speakers scheduled for the fall meetings!

Remember - Patricia Barefoot, Tuesday, May 12, 7:00, Bryan-Lang Library!!!!

EXTRA NOTE - On May 19 Al Sandrick, Meteorologist with the National Weather Service will be speaking - his subject: Historical Hurricanes that have affected the Georgia Coast. His focus will be the 1898 hurricane that caused extensive damage in Camden County. A question and answer period will conclude his presentation. 6-8 pm St. Marys Library, Gualle Room.