



Guale News

MAY 1999

VOLUME 19, NO. 4

HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO MEET TUESDAY, MAY 11

**GUALE ROOM - ST. MARYS LIBRARY 7:00
EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:30
HARBOR PILOT AND AUTHOR
CAPTAIN BRUCE FENDIG TO SPEAK**

Bruce Fendig, St. Simons native, harbor pilot for the Port of Brunswick, and now author of *BRUNSWICK - THE OCEAN PORT OF BRUNSWICK*, will speak at the May meeting.

Buddy Sullivan wrote this about Bruce: "Fendig is uniquely qualified to comment on the navigational aspects of Brunswick's history, being a harbor pilot himself and descended from a family of pilots whose close ties to the port have made them an integral part of the local maritime scene."

After graduating from Glynn Academy in Brunswick, he served his apprenticeship to the St. Simons Outer Bar under active licensed pilots for the Port of Brunswick. He is a licensed State and Federal Pilot and the co-owner of Sea Tow of Brunswick, a marine towing and salvage operation. He is active in a number of Glynn County civic organizations and lives in Brunswick with his wife, the former Teri Lynn Jackson. His father, Captain Edwin Fendig, is also an active harbor pilot.



Pilot Boat of Capt. Fader on St. Andrews Sound

CEMETERY PROJECT

Rodney Sheffield, who chairs this project, is about ready to resume work on cataloguing the Camden County cemeteries. If you can help, please give him a call at 912-729-5245. He will give you the details.

THANKS

Thanks are in order to those who helped to make April's Ramble a success — everyone seemed to have a good time despite early morning showers and a cool breeze later. Thank you to Genevieve Silver, Judy Buchanan, Linda Rice and Kathy Wilson, who so graciously opened the Catholic Chapel — and to Judy again, for presenting the history to society members. Thanks also to Pauley's for a delicious lunch. And a special thanks to Rodney Sheffield and John Bailey for their demonstration at the cemetery. You would have to have been there to understand!

GENEALOGY CORNER - JAMES A. CLUBB

Since the subject of this month's program is about river pilots, we are selecting a river pilot and his family for our family history this issue.

For you landlubbers, a harbor or river pilot is the one who sails out in a pilot boat to meet big ships and is charged with

the responsibility of bringing them safely into port. The pilots are the ones who know the currents, the depth changes and the shifting sandbars.

St. Andrews Sound was once a busy shipping channel with ships arriving daily to secure the timber widely produced along the Satilla River which empties into St. Andrews. Because of the activity, pilots lived at the north end of Cumberland. Among those were George and Frank Fader, Joseph Lasserre and the Clubbs, William and James.

Thus it's appropriate to select the Clubb family as the Genealogy Corner for this newsletter.

The following information comes from Volume 6 of *PIONEERS OF WIREGRASS GEORGIA*, Mary Miller's *CUMBERLAND ISLAND, THE UNSUNG NORTH END*, Mary Bullard's *BLACK SETTLEMENT ON CUMBERLAND ISLAND* and Camden County Census Records.

JOHN CLUBB, who came to Frederica with General Oglethorpe, was the first to arrive in this region. He was born about 1710 in England and fought in the Battle of Bloody Marsh on St. Simons. He was later awarded land on St. Simons and in Camden County. He and his wife Mary had six children: William (more to follow); James, who married Fannie ___; Thomas, who married Elizabeth Miller; George, who married Sarah Haverlin; Mary, who married Brittain Bunkley; John Jr., who married Sophia ___.

John died in 1772 and his widow about 1800 on St. Simons.

WILLIAM CLUBB was born about 1740. He and his wife Cecelia were the first of the Clubbs to settle on Cumberland Island on land near the site of old Ft. St. Andrew. Their children were William; James A.; Robert; Rebecca, who married Thomas P. Bunkley; and Martha, who married Isham Spalding, Jr. Sons William Jr. and James both became pilots on the St. Andrews Bar. William Sr. died in 1817.

JAMES A. CLUBB was born about 1790 in Glynn County and married Rebecca Miller. The 1850 Camden County Census shows these children: Elias; Elizabeth; Emily, who married Luther Martin; and James A., Jr. Rebecca is buried in the High Point Cemetery on Cumberland Island, grave unmarked. He moved to Brunswick after her death. He died in 1889.

James worked both as lighthouse keeper on Little Cumberland Island and as pilot on the St. Andrews Bar. He achieved a certain notoriety as the pilot who brought the slave ship *WANDERER* in. He later claimed that he did not know it was a slave ship until he was aboard it, and he was forced at gunpoint to bring it to the south end of Jekyll where the slaves were unloaded. He later was captain of steamships traveling on the waters of Camden and Glynn counties.



The Hildegard, which carried passengers and freight up the St. Marys River and between St. Marys and Fernandina.

A QUERY

Does anyone know who Sarah T. Clubb is? She is buried near the front of Oak Grove Cemetery in St. Marys. Her marker shows that she was born at Cabin Bluff in 1801 and died in St.

Marys in 1884. In the 1850 census, she is living alone in St. Marys. In 1860, she is in the home of the Joseph Arnow family. She is not shown in either the 1870 or the 1880 Camden County Census.

QUIZ ANSWERS

If you were unable to make the walking tour in April, here are the answers to the questions appearing the April newsletter.

1. The St. Marys United Methodist Church is celebrating its 200th year in 1999.

2. The Lemuel Johnson Park, which is located in the median on Osborne by the hotel, once had a goldfish pond in its center.

3. The Morse house in the 200 block of Osborne was built by Captain Morse, a river pilot. It is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Eddie McCullough. He is a pilot.

4. The house on the east end of Stable Alley was once part of the Will Carnegie house which is now Lang's Seafood.

5. The building housing Once Upon A Bookseller is built of cement blocks handmade by its builder, Cam Sheffield.

6. The waterfront cannon holds a toy truck, cemented in, belonging to one of the Brandon "boys," uncle of Mayor Jerry Brandon.

The photograph of Sterling's Store shows it with its porch and without the block addition.

JUST A COMMENT

It appears that all the progress in this area keeps eroding the area history. Once again someone has meddled with the Jefferson/Colerain Road. Last year Kingsland renamed a portion of this road dating to Camden's earliest days, changing it from Colerain to Laurel Island Parkway, giving more identity to Kingsland's Laurel Island Links. Now someone in St. Marys, with no regard for the road's history, has changed the last segment of one of the state's oldest roads from Jefferson Road to Douglas Drive.

None of these name changes, however, alter the fact that over this Post Road (another name) traveled Indians, Spanish, British and American soldiers in its earliest days. In fact, in 1805, U.S. Treasurer Albert Gallatin named it one of the seven principal routes important to the United States for defense and postal service. Its route may be traced on all old state maps, showing it leaving St. Marys and forking just beyond today's I-95 with one fork leading to Colerain Road and on west and the other fork leading to the old county seat of Jeffersonton on the Satilla River and on to Milledgeville, one of Georgia's early capitals.

FROM OTHER SOCIETIES

The Georgia Historical Society has announced its annual Savannah Sojourn — its third annual antiques show and sale, May 21-23. A full weekend of activities will begin on Friday morning with a Home and Garden Tour. The show will be on Saturday from 10 to 6. For details of other events and tickets,

call the Historical Society, 912-651-2125.

The Georgia Historical Society announces its Summer Lecture Series: All of them meet at Hodgson Hall in Savannah at 7 p.m. For more information call 912-651-2125.

May 13: PILGRIMAGE TO AFRICA; ONE SAVANNAH WOMAN'S JOURNEY TO FIND HER PEOPLE AND HER PAST, Wevonneda Minis

June 10: THE FRENCH IN COASTAL GEORGIA 1789-1815, Dr. Martha Keber

July 8: LIVING IN TWO WORLDS; RED, WHITE & BLACK ON THE GEORGIA FRONTIER, Dr. Andrew K. Frank

August 12: THE NORTHERN ROOTS OF SAVANNAH'S ANTEBELLUM ELITE 1780s-1850s, Dr. Paul M. Pressly

BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS

BRUNSWICK - THE OCEAN PORT OF BRUNSWICK, by Capt. Bruce Fendig, a Bar Pilot of Brunswick and the Society's featured speaker in May. Anyone interested in Georgia maritime history will enjoy this book. Capt. Fendig recorded this in the preface: "I have written this book with two types of readers in mind, one who likes to look at the pictures and skim the captions and the other who desires more facts about the subject on hand. It is my hope in writing such a book that maritime history of the lower coast of Georgia will be further preserved and appreciated."

This pictorial history contains stories of such famous boats as the U.S. Constitution or "Old Ironsides" and the slave ship Wanderer. Check your local booksellers.

PAGES OF GLORY: GEORGIA'S DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE, published by The Georgia Historical Society, gives the story of men and women who worked to preserve state records throughout the state's history. It is illustrated with many of the Historical Society's documents. It is only \$15 and may be ordered from the Society at 501 Whitaker St., Savannah, GA 31499.

THE HENRY FORD ERA AT RICHMOND HILL, GEORGIA. Order from Leslie Long, 186 Lincoln Circle, Richmond Hill, GA 31324. \$50 incl. postage plus \$3.45 for Georgia residents (sales tax).

DANIEL LAFAYETTE ROGERS, HIS ANCESTORS AND DESCENDANTS. The history of the Rogers, Walkers, Hardegrees, Bentleys and Kellys. Over 250 years of well documented family history. \$50 plus \$5 shipping. Order from Opal Cannon, PO Box 206, Leesburg, GA 31763.

MEMBERS - MEMBERS

If you want to join or renew - send your dues to Mildred Walko, 800 Margaret Street, St. Marys, GA 31558.

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

REMINDER: Bruce Fendig, speaker. Gualco Historical Society, Tuesday, May 11, 7:00, Gualco Room, St. Marys Library.

Thanks to Camden Printing for nineteen years of fine printing of Gualco News!