



# Gule News

NOVEMBER 1994

VOLUME 14, NO. 7

## NOVEMBER MEETING SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

7:00 at Bryan Lang Historical Library in Woodbine.  
Executive Session 6:30

Special Guest: T. Reed Ferguson of St. Simons, who has just written an outstanding study of John Couper in his book *"The John Couper Family at Cannon's Point."* Mercer University Press is the publisher and presented it at a press luncheon in Atlanta last month. Mr. Ferguson will give a slide lecture on Mr. Couper and will autograph copies of his book after the program.

Refreshments will be served during the social hour at the end of the lecture. You will not want to miss this!

### JOHN COUPER, GLYNN COUNTY PLANTER

This brief outline of John Couper and Cannon's Point is from *"The Golden Isles of Georgia"* written by his great-granddaughter Caroline Couper Lovell.

John Couper came from Scotland in 1775 at the age of sixteen. He first settled in Savannah where he was apprenticed to Lundy and Company. When the Revolution started this British firm moved to Florida and Couper with it.

After the war, he returned to Georgia, first to Liberty County where he married Rebecca Maxwell, daughter of one of the county's foremost citizens. In the 1790s, he established his Cannon's Point plantation and began buying other planting land along the Altamaha with his friend James Hamilton.

In 1804, Mr. Couper built his home at Cannon's Point, the ground floor a tabby basement, the second floor surrounded by a broad porch held the parlor, library and dining room. The upper story was used for sleeping.

Cotton was the main crop at Cannon's Point, but John Couper also planted every flower and tree that would grow in this coastal climate: figs, oranges, lemons, limes, guavas, pomegranates, olives and dates among them. Cannon's Point has been called Georgia's first agricultural experimental station.

In 1794 Mr. Couper cut the stern post for the USS Constitution (Old Ironsides) from a great oak in his garden and inscribed and iron band around the stump "U. S. Frigate Constitution, 1794".

He also had time for political activities. In 1796 he was a member of the state legislature and helped in defeating the Yazoo Fraud. Two years later he represented Glynn County in the convention that framed the Constitution.

John Couper's marker at Christ Church Cemetery on St. Simons give this tribute: "Endowed with a fine intellect, a cheerful and amiable disposition, and most liberal and benevolent feelings, his life was devoted to the duty of rendering himself most acceptable to his Creator by doing the most good to his creatures."

He was born in 1759 and died in 1850.

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

October is the regularly scheduled election month, but since a ramble was taking place the election was postponed until the November meeting. Outgoing officers have graciously agreed to serve in 1995 with two replacements on the Board of Directors.

President - Dr. John Christian; Vice President - Henry Williams; Recording Secretary - Caroline Covert; Treasurer - Mildred Walko; Corresponding Secretary - Eloise Thompson; Directors - Jean Hurt, Charles Thompson, Bebe Williams.

The following committee heads have agreed to serve and will be appointed officially by the president at this meeting:

Archivists - John Christian; Cemetery - Stanley Walko; Membership - Dot Holstun; Newsletter Editor - Eloise Thompson; Nominating Committee - Betsy Thomas; Orange Hall and Parliamentarian - Linda Love; Publicity - Bill Blankenship.

### FROM OTHER AREAS

Moultrie is another good place to visit if you are working on your family history. The Ellen Payne Odom Library attached to the main library is located behind the post office at 204 5th Street SE, open 8:30 - 5:30 Monday through Saturday. Among the collections is that of the late Emmett Lucas with hundreds of volumes relevant to the southeastern United States. The Scottish Collection containing material from 61 Scottish clans is a unique feature of the Odom Library. A large section is devoted to military history, to native American background and immigration material. A recommended place to research!

### GUALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESIDENT FEATURED IN HARBOR SOUND

Feature writer and Historical Society member Patricia Barefoot has written a tribute to John Christian and the outstanding work he is doing as librarian at Bryan-Lang Historical Library and as a community spirited citizen. "Teaching and preaching are mainstays of this dedicated man's life," writes Ms. Barefoot. She tells of the many hours he devotes to his church work and to his full time career at the library. Dr. and Mrs. Christian are native Alabamians and moved to Woodbine in 1987.

### OCTOBER RAMBLE

The trip to Okefenokee Heritage Center and Southern Forest World was a great success. If you were among those unable to go, make your plans now to visit on your own. You will enjoy going back to the days of steam engines and dog trot houses, to one room schoolhouses and even on to Indian times by studying the room full of prehistoric artifacts on display.

All of us living here in the midst of pine trees and paper production can readily appreciate Forest World. It is indeed a world of picture and displays of animals and plant life; planting and nurturing of pine trees, as well as harvesting and manufacturing of all types of paper products. This too, is a must see, if you haven't.

### IN MEMORIAM

#### Gule Historical Members 1993 - 1994

Dot Barker  
Matilda Bridges  
Andy Cooley  
Waldo Lang  
William Morris  
Evelyn O'Barr

### EARLY BIRD MEMBERSHIPS

These have already joined for 1995: Richard Currier family, Geneva Stebbins, Selma Bunkey, Carol Rowland, Carlton Bunkey, Dot Holstun, R.B. Raymund, Charles Davison family, W.C. Kirby family.

Total memberships for 1994: Family - 46, Individual - 58.

PLEASE let us know if you plan a change of address. All newsletters with changed addresses are returned. This means you either get your copy too late for a meeting or you get it not at all.

Memberships run from January to January, so if you would like to get yours in early send to: Mildred Walko, 800 Margaret Street, St. Marys, GA 31558

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

### THANK YOU TO:

Ken Thomas for promoting "Camden's Challenge" in your Atlanta Journal Constitution column. Incidentally Ken will be the featured speaker in Georgia Historical Society's series of programs on November 17, 7:00, at Hodgson Hall in Savannah. Ken will be speaking on "Montalet of Savannah and Sapelo; The Man and The Myth". These lectures are free to Georgia Historical Society members and \$5 to nonmembers.

Not only is Ken Thomas an outstanding writer, genealogist and Georgia history authority, but professionally works with the Division of Historic Preservation, Georgia Department of Natural Resources. This will be a well researched presentation and interesting to all coastal Georgia history buffs.

Thanks go also to Betsy Thomas for heading the nominating committee for 1995. She efficiently pulled all the names together, even twisted a few arms, but succeeded.

Thanks to Charles Thompson for fighting the battle of labels. You would be surprised the member of address changes each mailing.

Thanks to Camden Printing for getting a good looking newsletter out on time.

Thanks to Henry Williams for the outstanding rambles and programs in 1994.

This is the final newsletter for 1994 so Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a Grand New Year. A newsletter announcing the next meeting will be out in February.

A January executive session will be held at the Charles Thompson's with all officers and committee heads invited to supper and 1995's planning session. Details will come by phone.

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

November 15, 7:00, T. Reed Ferguson, speaker. Guale Historical Society. Bryan-Lang Library.

December 17, Christmas Tour of Homes, St. Marys. Watch the newspapers.