



Guale News

NOVEMBER 1995

VOLUME 15, NO. 6

CHARLOTTE FRIES TO SPEAK ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM NOW ONGOING ON CUMBERLAND ISLAND

November Meeting on Tuesday 14th, 7:00 P.M.,
Executive Session 6:30 P.M.

To meet at St. Marys United Methodist Church

After hearing Charlotte, we all will be applying to enter a math and science program on the middle school level. She is heading this exciting program which she describes as a hands-on experience with "kids teaching kids."

This all inclusive study of beach, maritime oak and dune habitats gives the students experience in several disciplines math, science, art and team cooperation. Working primarily with students from Camden, Bulloch, Effingham and Chatham counties, Ms. Fries must first train the teachers in these techniques as well as work with education majors from Georgia Southern University, whose skills are also enhanced with this unique program.

While observing and learning, students are also mastering filming techniques to produce videos about the natural history of Cumberland Island which will be shown in middle schools statewide. Channel 48 in Statesboro is supplying the production equipment.

This GIMS (Georgia Initiative in Math and Science) program is funded by a grant from the National Science Association. So come and hear what we all missed in our school days dominated by textbooks. Ms. Fries will also be showing slides of her Cumberland Island educational work.

IMPORTANT: LOOK AT LOCATION CHANGE FOR NOVEMBER MEETING - St. Marys United Methodist Church on East Conyers Street in Wesley Sunday School Classroom. Follow the arrows by sanctuary.

BOOKS AND MORE BOOKS

Two reprints have just been issued and you will probably be interested in both.

First is Guale Society member Mary Bullard's *ROBERT STAFFORD OF CUMBERLAND ISLAND*, originally issued in 1986. This 368 page softbound book tells of the life and times of a nineteenth century planter, who specialized in long staple cotton and became one of the wealthiest men in the state.

The Georgia Historical Quarterly had this to say about Mrs. Bullard's new edition "By building upon her previous work. Bullard has taken us another step closer to understanding the social microcosm that was Cumberland Island... (She) uses civil records with stunning effect, demonstrating the value of these sources to scholars of slave life in Georgia."

This may be ordered from University of Georgia Press, 330 Research Drive, Athens, GA 30602-4901. \$19.95 per copy with 6% sales tax and \$3.00 postage.

Another reprint that is of interest to coastal dwellers is William (Rusty) Fleetwood's revised *TIDECRAFT*, probably one of the most complete books on watercraft of the coastal region. It was first published in 1982 by the Coastal Heritage Society and has now been expanded with more text and illustrations, covering the waters of South Carolina, Georgia and northeastern Florida, 1550-1950. This hardback edition is available from WBG Marine Press, P.O. Box 178, Tybee Island, GA 31328. \$47.50 plus tax.

A brand new just off the press book *FAMILY HISTORY FROM THE DARIEN TIMBER GAZETTE OF DARIEN, GEORGIA 1874-1913*, Chronicles of the Patterson, Hebbard, and Steadwell Families will be of interest to anyone connected to these families. Researcher and author Robert Patterson spent six years reading and abstracting the microfilm recording the old Darien paper. These families moved from Camden County to Darien to take part in the shipping industry spurred by the vast amounts of timber coming down the Altamaha. Among the subjects touched are births, deaths, political affairs and ice cream socials. If you want to know

more order your copy for \$15 postpaid from Society member Robert Patterson, 1119 Francisco Way, Winter Springs, FL 32708. Robert has donated copies to the St. Marys City Library and to Bryan-Lang Library.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Burnt Fort Chapel Homecoming is set for November 19. The covered dish dinner will be served at 1:30 with services following. Visiting Burnt Fort Chapel is like going home. The present chapel, which opened in 1977 stands on the site of the original which dated to the 1870s and the design is almost the same. Remember good preaching, good singing, and good food!

Mark your calendar - St. Marys 5th Annual Tour of Homes will be on Saturday, December 16th 5 P.M. to 9 P.M. This candlelight tour, benefiting Orange Hall restoration, will feature historic homes and churches, as well as modern ones. So put on your walking shoes and be prepared for a gala evening.

A CHRISTMAS HINT

Do you have someone on your list that has everything, everything except *CAMDEN'S CHALLENGE*, the county's official history book? You might want to consider this among your gift ideas. They are available in St. Marys at Orange Hall, Blue Goose and Once Upon a Bookseller. In Woodbine, you may pick one up at Bryan-Lang Library. If you are out of town, mail your order to Bryan-Lang Library, P.O. Box 725, Woodbine, GA 31569. \$30 plus \$4 postage for one copy, \$1 each additional copy.

FROM OTHER AREAS

The last in Georgia Historical Society's fall lecture series Lost Cultures of Georgia will be held at Hodgson Hall, 501 Whitaker Street, Savannah on December 7. Dr. Sue Mullins Moore of Georgia Southern University will be speaking on "*Hidden in the Ground: The African-American Plantation Experience.*" Programs start at 7:00.

Coastal Georgia Historical Society celebrated its 30th year on October 22 with a plantation supper and a performance by Georgia College's Jazz Band. The Society's latest display at their museum of Coastal History is the exhibition *Islands of the Imagination* featuring landscapes and seascapes by Athens artist June Ball. This will be open until December 15.

SOCIETY BUSINESS

At the October ramble, those present voted to postpone the annual election until the November meeting. Please come and cast your vote for 1996 officers - President, John Christian; Vice President, Eloise Thompson; Treasurer, Mildred Walko; Corresponding Secretary, Virginia Christian; Recording Secretary, to be nominated from the floor. The directors are elected for three terms and they have two more years to go: Jeanne Hurt, Charles Thompson and Bebe Williams.

GENEALOGY CORNER

In October the Hibbard (Hebbard) family held its annual reunion in St. Marys, coming from Atlanta, Athens, Waycross, Florida and other towns throughout Georgia. Several descendants are residents of Camden County. This family is one of the earliest settling here when Camden was a frontier community.

Most of the following information is found in *PIONEERS OF WIREGRASS GEORGIA*, volumes 5 and 6.

Elihu Hibbard was born in New England, January 14, 1759 and moved to Georgia after the Revolution. He was a master mariner and captain of the sloop *TWO SISTERS*. State militia records show that he was commissioned a captain in the Camden County militia in 1793 and later commanded a cavalry detachment at Colerain on the St. Marys River. He returned to New England where he married Mary Haley, the daughter of Joshua in 1796. He brought her to St. Marys and two years later she died in childbirth. Their son Meletiah Haley Hibbard was reared in St. Marys and married Winnifred Honiker, daughter of Benjamin. He became a Methodist minister, serving churches in Georgia. He died in Morgan County.

Elihu Hebbard married second Nancy Flood Vincent, the

widow of James Vincent. They had two children: Mary died in infancy and John.

PWG says that after Nancy's death, Elihu married Winnifred, widow of Benjamin. But an unrecorded license found in the Camden County courthouse shows that on December 26, 1812 he married Winneford Akin.

The son John remained in Camden County and was also a ship captain in coastwise shipping. He and his wife Elizabeth Mickler had nine children: Samuel who married Anna Tinker; Elizabeth who married Archibald Seals; Mary Catherine, wife of William Patterson; Mehala Amanda married John Peel; Louise married James Helveston; Isabelle Matilda married Cyrus Stedwell; Euphemia married Edward Gates; Laura, marriage unknown; John W. married R. E. Stark.

John Hebbard died at his home in St. Marys, May 17, 1850. His widow died August 27, 1868. His grave is located in the Seals/Payne lot in Oak Grove Cemetery.

LIFTED FROM OTHER NEWSLETTERS

The Cumberland Island Museum September newsletter has this article of interest: "In the December 1994 CIM Newsletter we mentioned the grave of the Civil War soldier that was being exposed on the north end of Little Cumberland Island. On 29 August 1995, the LCI Association brought an archaeologist to the island to excavate the still eroding site. Most of the overlaying sand had been removed and the headstone exposed when the archaeologist arrived and all that remained to be done was to excavate the small area within the iron fence. Slow, careful excavation revealed that at the original ground level, the fenced area was covered with a thin slab of mortar which was broken in a couple of places, and there was a footstone. The next day the mortar was removed and exhumation continued. The outline of a wooden coffin was found but no wood remained. When at last bones were discovered and delicately cleaned so that the precise position of each could be recorded, it was discovered that Charles R. Farnham, Signal Quartermaster, U.S. Bark Brazileira, a Native of Manchester, N.H., had been put in the ground facing more or less south, with the footstone at his head. It took another day before the entire skeleton was exhumed and scrutinized. Witnesses say the teeth were full of cavities, even the front ones. No accompanying artifacts were found at this site. The bones were reinterred on a peaceful ridge inland from the lighthouse. Besides the

above inscription, the attractive marble headstone included: Died in St. Andrews Sound, November 21st, 1863, aged 21 years. The footstone bore only his initials C.R.F. and 1863."

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Guale Historical Society Friends,

Thanks for your thoughtfulness when I was in the hospital recently. You sent a beautiful bouquet of flowers. I have enjoyed them very much. They have graced my sick room and brought cheer to me.

It is encouraging to one to know that his friends are thinking of him when he is laid low with a sickness.

My surgery was a success and I hope to return to my normal activities after my next visit to the doctor on November 6.

Thanks for being a part of my life and offering prayers and kind words to me during my surgery and recovery period this fall.

I am looking forward to another year in our historical society and to many wonderful programs that are being planned for us.

Yours thankfully,

John H. Christian

(Editor's Note. Dr. Christian had surgery twice in 1995 and has apparently bounded back quite nicely. For that we are exceedingly thankful and we, too, look forward to a great 1996 under his leadership.)

FINAL MEMBERSHIPS FOR 1995

Renewed: Craig Root Family; John Love Family; George Hannaford.

Some have already joined for 1996: William A. Stoddard Family; Phil Jory Family; Geneva Stebbins; Carol Jones (& 97); W. C. King; Alex Williams (97 & 98).

This is the last newsletter for 1995, if you would like to be an early bird member for 1996, you may send your dues to Mildred Walko, 800 Margaret Street, St. Marys, GA. 31558.

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

REMINDER: Meeting November 14 - 7:00 P.M.; at St. Marys United Methodist Church! Executive Session 6:30 P.M.

Since this is the last Guale News for 1995,
Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!
See ya in February!