



Guale News

NOVEMBER 1997

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**NOVEMBER MEETING AT
BRYAN-LANG HISTORICAL LIBRARY**

**LIBRARY DIRECTOR
DR. JOHN CHRISTIAN TO SPEAK**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 7:00
EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:30**

This year marks the Tenth Anniversary of Bryan-Lang. Dr. Christian will be giving some of its history - its features - its holdings. You will not want to miss this. If you are interested in family history, not necessarily Camden County related, or in Camden or Georgia history in general, you will have the opportunity to see what is available right here in home territory.

Dr. Christian is an entertaining speaker, as well as knowledgeable about his field of local history. Come join the group. The library is located in Woodbine, only a block from the courthouse. Turn at the traffic light on U.S. 17 and you will see it on the corner just past the Woodbine United Methodist Church.

A reception will follow the program.



GROUND BREAKING for Bryan - Lang Historical Library

(Left to Right) - Cobb Readdick, Honorary Director Eugenia Price, Bebe Lang (with shovel), Commissioner Kenneth Gay, Woodbine Mayor Donald Mitchell

GUALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS CHOSEN FOR 1998

In an unprecedented election held at the October meeting, 1997 officers were re-elected. One slot for director remains to be filled and nominations will be made at the January executive planning session, and voted on in February.

1998 officers: Pres. John Christian
Vice Pres. Eloise Thompson
Treas. Mildred Walko
Rec. Sec. Susan Lee
Corr. Sec. Virginia Christian
Directors (3 yr. term) Charlie Thompson,
Bebe Williams

Chairman for the several committees will be selected at the January session and presented to the membership at the February meeting.

GUALE TO CELEBRATE 20 YEARS

In 1978 Guale Historical Society came into being. Through this period several projects were realized - coining Orange Hall medals - cataloging Oak Grove Cemetery - publication of various booklets - participation in county wide activities - Christmas receptions, as well as uncounted rambles and programs.

Now, put on your thinking caps and come up with an appropriate celebration of this the Society's 20th year. If you have something to share, please contact Dr. Christian at the library 576-5841 or Program Chairman Rodney Sheffield at 729-5245.



SEPTEMBER TREASURER'S REPORT

Working Balance for General Account - \$4548.01

Cemetery Trust Fund - \$17,240.55 (These funds were set up by family members to care for the Davis-Hardee lot and the Hawkins-Bachlott lot in Oak Grove Cemetery. Tombstone cleaning is now underway on both lots.)



MEMBERS

1997 Renewals

Those renewing since last newsletter: Kenneth Gay Family; Jim Burnham Family; Terrell Porter Family; Hubert Lang Family, Brunswick; W.C. Kirby Family (Total 47 families for 1997). W.C. King, Avondale Estates; Patricia Barefoot, Brunswick; Mary McLaughlin, Jacksonville (Total 60 individuals for 1997)

1998 Early Birds

Families - Odell Hightower, Cape Canaveral (new); Thomas Avery (new); Phil Jory, Atlanta; John Love (& 99); William Stoddard (& 99); Ed Marx (new) Individuals - Lois Adam, Jacksonville; George Brown, Atlanta; Thomas Cleland, Jacksonville; Roberta Cross, Fernandina (new); W.C. King, Avondale Estates; Alex Williams, Atlanta; Sheila Ashe (new); Lilla Greeley (new); James Johnson, Doraville (new); Mary McLaughlin, Jacksonville; Suzanne Hardee, Fernandina (new).

If you would like to be an Early Bird Member for 1998 (Dues become payable on Jan. 1), send dues to Mildred Walko, 800 Margaret St., St. Marys GA 31558. Family \$15 Individual \$8 Student \$2.



FEATURING

As background for your visit to Bryan - Lang Library, this information about one of the honorees was supplied by Dr. John Christian.

Beatrice Fairchild "Bebe" Lang was born on March 23, 1903 at the now dead town of Satilla Bluff. Her parents were Rufus and Beatrice DuFour Lang. Mr. Lang was a business man in this small lumber town on the Satilla River. (A ledger from his store may be seen in the library.)

She was a descendant of old Camden County families, bearing the blood line of both Isaac and Richard Lang, who

came to Camden County in the 1790s. Her maternal line DuFour began with Louis DuFour who settled in St. Marys early in the 1800s.

Mr. and Mrs. Lang were active in the religious life of the community as members of the Episcopal Church St. Clements at Satilla Bluff. Here Bebe was baptized at the age of three months and was a member there and later at St. Marks in Woodbine after St. Clements closed.

After the death of Rufus Lang in 1912, the family moved from Satilla Bluff to the town of Woodbine. In time, Bebe's various business interests included operating a gas station in Woodbine, working in civil service in Jacksonville, and later working for Camden County as registrar and justice of the peace.

While working in the courthouse, her interests spread beyond her job as she discovered the deteriorating condition of old county records. Through her efforts, State Archivist Mary Givens Bryan visited the county and with her staff microfilmed valuable papers and took many of the church and county books back to Atlanta to be laminated and rebound.

Bebe then moved to Atlanta to work in the State Archives as County Archivist, responsible for collecting and/or preserving historical documents throughout the state. In this period she began collecting material relating to Camden County and eventually amassed a vast collection with plans to house them in the county.

After her retirement in 1976, she continued to live in Decatur and pursued the dream of placing her collection in Camden County. Citizens throughout the county worked with government officials to move her collection to south Georgia where it was temporarily housed in the old Ralph Bunche School building until the present library building was constructed and opened in 1987.

Bebe Lang died December 4, 1989 and is buried in Oak Grove Cemetery in St. Marys beside her parents and Mary Givens Bryan.



ZABETTE

The October newsletter carried a blurb about Society member Mary Bullard's and composer Curtis Bryant's production of an opera based on Mrs. Bullard's book ROBERT STAFFORD OF CUMBERLAND ISLAND.

The Society has made a donation and received a letter from Georgia State University School of Music saying that a portion of the opera will be presented on campus during the 1997-98 academic year.

If you would like to make a tax deductible donation, send your check to Georgia State Foundation, School of Music, Opera Zabette and mail to PO Box 4097, Atlanta, GA 30302-4097.

FROM OTHER SOCIETIES

As part of the Fall Lecture Series of the Georgia Historical Society, Dr. Jonathan Bryant of Georgia Southern will speak on "The Rise and Fall of King Cotton," November 20, 7:00.

On December 11, Photographer Jack Leigh will present a lecture and slide presentation on Working the Waters, Georgia's Shrimping and Oystering Industry. A book signing will follow the program (7:00). Both lectures will take place at the library, 501 Whitaker Street, Savannah. These are free and open to the public.

Georgia Heritage Celebration celebrating the founding of Georgia on February 12, 1733 has been a tradition among Georgians since 1734. The 1998 event will begin Monday, February 2 at Old Fort Jackson near Savannah. Governor James Jackson (1757-1806) will be the honoree. Other events during the two weeks celebration will include a lecture at the Georgia Historical Society on February 2 on Gov. Jackson, and Super Museum Sunday on February 15, when many of Savannah's museums will be open without charge.

The Cumberland Island Museum has recently placed a tombstone on the unmarked grave of Rufus Trimmings in the High Point Cemetery. The location of the grave had been pointed out by the late Jesse Bailey in 1976. Information came from family members and the death certificate. The epitaph says "Rufus Trimmings, Born Cumberland Island 1899, Died 15 April 1951, Son of Lizzie & Charles Trimmings"



HISTORIAN WILL DURANT SAYS -

"Civilization is a stream with banks. The stream is sometimes filled with blood from people killing, stealing, shouting and doing things historians usually record, while on the banks, unnoticed, people build homes, make love, raise children, sing songs, and write poetry."

"The story of civilization is the story of what happened on the banks. Historians are pessimists because they ignore the banks for the river."



REMINDER

November meeting, Tuesday 11th at Bryan-Lang Historical Library in Woodbine 7:00.

Since there will not be another newsletter nor other meetings until February, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!