



TIME TO MEET GUALE ROOM, TUESDAY, NOV. 14 EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:30 PROGRAM 7:00

CUMBERLAND ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE

SUPERINTENDENT ARTHUR FREDERICK TO SPEAK

Mr. Frederick, who came to Cumberland Island from the Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic Site in Atlanta, will be talking about plans to restore and preserve historic buildings belonging to the National Park Service (NPS).

The deteriorating Bachlott House on Wheeler Street, which was built by St. Marys resident John Bachlott in the 1890s, is of special interest and will be the focus of his presentation. Other exciting news will include plans for rebuilding the Miller Dock, which was the most photographed structure on the St. Marys waterfront before its demolition by the Park Service.

Also on the agenda for the November meeting will be the election of officers. Roy and Iris Norton are nominating committee chairmen.

- 2000 Officers:
- President, Rodney Sheffield
 - V. President, Eloise Thompson
 - Treasurer, Mildred Walko
 - Recording Secretary, Susan Lee
 - Corresponding Secretary, Joyce Smith
 - Directors (3-year terms, up for election this year) James Stacy, Charles Thompson, Bebe Williams



Miller's Dock on St. Marys Waterfront. This one-story phase built in 1945.



Second and third floors added in 1947. Second floor for storage and net repair. Third floor for truckers waiting to load shrimp.

GENEALOGY CORNER

Since the November program is geared to the NPS and its activities in St. Marys and on Cumberland Island, let's portray one of Cumberland Island's families of the last century — the Stafford Family.

Two Stafford brothers, Robert and Thomas, are found in the Spanish East Florida Census in 1784. Thomas is listed as carpenter on the plantation of Lord Hawkes in British East Florida. Robert is shown as born in England and an overseer on the estate of Mr. Wilkins on the St. Johns River. (British period in Florida 1763-1783)

In 1784, Thomas left Spanish Florida declaring he was unmarried and that his only property was one boat and one negro. On August 8, 1788, both Thomas and Robert applied for citizenship in Georgia. (Deed Book A, p. 33)

Robert and Thomas appear in Camden Deed Book A, p. 16, the same year they apply for citizenship. They were jointly

granted 209 acres in the county in 1791. In 1799, they received grants totaling 1,059 acres. Thomas had received a 250-acre grant of his own right in 1791. (INDEX TO HEAD-RIGHT AND BOUNTY GRANTS OF GEORGIA 1756-1909)

Little is known of the heirs of Robert Stafford. His will was probated July 29, 1819 and names sons John, George and William. The daughters were Sarah, Elizabeth, Mary and Rebecca.

Thomas Stafford married Lucy Thomas sometime between 1789 and 1790. She may have been the daughter of Joseph and the brother of Allen, residents of East Florida. (Mary Bullard)

Many of Thomas Stafford's heirs remained in Camden County and may be researched through county records.

The will of Thomas Stafford appears in Will Book A in Camden County. It is dated April 20, 1800 and was probated May 23, 1800. It names his wife, Lucy, as executrix. His burial site is unknown.

Seven minor children are listed:

ROBERT, born December 8, 1790, died August 1, 1877, buried Stafford Cemetery on Cumberland. Never married. For more details on his fascinating life, see Mary Bullard's ROBERT STAFFORD OF CUMBERLAND ISLAND.

ELIZABETH, married Jacob Johns on December 21, 1826 in Camden County. No further information.

SUSANNAH, married George Drew Hawkins of London, England in 1815. (Deed Book K, p. 26) They had one son, Thomas Drew Hawkins. Susannah returned to the United States and died in July 1836 in her 41st year. She is buried in the Stafford Cemetery.

CLEARISSA (Clarissa), no further information.

MARY (Mollie), married John Thompkins on July 24, 1819 in Camden County. Burial sites of Mary and John are unknown. Their children were: Lucy, who married Cyrus Udall; John, who married Mary Rudolph; and Robert, who married 1. Emily Lang 2. Madena Bunkley.

THOMAS, no further information.

HARRIETT, no further information.

Lucy Stafford, widow of Thomas, later married Isham Spalding, Sr. (Camden County Deed Book I, p. 246)

She died in August 1836, age 70, and is buried in Stafford Cemetery on Cumberland Island. Her will was probated in 1837 with her son Robert as the executor.

BRYAN-LANG HISTORICAL LIBRARY

The library board has announced that Carolyn Rock has been employed as assistant to archivist/librarian Darren Harper. Carolyn adds a new dimension to the library services with her past experience in her field of archaeology with its related research. She has participated in many of the Kings Bay digs as well as other work in the Historic District of St. Marys. She had been working as a volunteer at Bryan-Lang and is already familiar with its holdings and routine.

Carolyn joins Damen and library aides Mrs. Winnie Wainwright and Mrs. Katie Cooler in offering assistance to the many researchers now visiting the library.

CUMBERLAND ISLAND MUSEUM

The Indian dugout which has been in storage for some twenty years is now in the museum and will be on display when the library opens in January.

In 1981, the canoe was found in the mud by Little Cumberland Island residents. They notified the Georgia Department of Resources, and Ranger Andy Quarterman responded by transferring the delicate boat to a water-filled pit at Ft. King George in Darien to prevent its disintegration.

With the help of County Administrator Craig Root and Historic Preservationist of the CAPDC Mac Burdette, and

later Bill Martin, grants were secured. A small building behind the courthouse housed the vat holding chemicals to preserve the wooden boat. After several months, it was pronounced preserved and removed from the solution, only to be carefully crated and stored. No spot could be found for display until now. Watch for the opening of Cumberland Museum and the Indian dugout display.

GENEALOGY HINT

This is taken from *The Heritage*, a quarterly publication of the Gwinnett Historical Society, who took it from Coweta County Genealogical Society Magazine.

"If you are having problems finding the parents of an ancestor, you might keep in mind that our ancestors tended to follow a naming pattern:

- 1st son - named after the father's father
- 2nd son - named after the mother's father
- 3rd son - named after the father
- 4th son - named after the father's eldest brother
- 5th son - named after the mother's eldest brother
- 6th son - named after the father's second eldest brother, etc.
- 1st daughter - named after the mother's mother
- 2nd daughter - named after the father's mother
- 3rd daughter - named after the mother
- 4th daughter - named after the mother's eldest sister, etc."

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE COUNTY CEMETERIES?

According to Society member and cemetery coordinator Jasper Lang, by September ten county cemeteries had been cleaned and restored with more to be completed by December. The first was the Holzendorf Cemetery located west of U.S. 17 at the end of Harriet's Bluff Road. Homeward, Lawnwood, Temple Creek Church, Burnt Fort, Horse Stamp, Colesburg, Tompkins, Zion and Bickley, Harrell and Crum were scheduled afterwards.

The cleanup project was started by Sheriff Bill Smith using Camden Detention Center trustees as laborers and drug money for expenses. Many of the older cemeteries in the county have been lost and without these clean-up efforts many more could be destroyed and lost to future generations.

Mr. Lang sent details of the clean-up project to Governor Roy Barnes, who replied, "You, your family and Sheriff Bill Smith have my thanks for your sense of duty and obvious concern for the cemeteries of our state's past generations. Please know how proud I am to have citizens such as you who call Georgia home." Governor Barnes suggested that copies of the cemetery material be sent to the Georgia Historical Society for their information.

BOOKS BOOKS AND BOOKS

Do your Christmas shopping early! Consider these Camden County books:

PEN PORTRAITS, newly reprinted from a 1969 collection of articles about Camden County women and their families. \$15 plus \$2 handling.

JAMES VOCALLE'S 1914 HISTORY OF CAMDEN COUNTY. This early history offers a picture of that earlier period and family history available no other place. \$15 plus \$2 handling.

CAMDEN'S CHALLENGE, A HISTORY OF CAMDEN COUNTY, updated and reprinted in 1994. \$30 with \$4 mailing.

All of the above may be ordered from Bryan-Lang Historical Library, P.O. Box 725, Woodbine, Georgia 31569 or bought at Once Upon A Bookseller in St. Marys.

Bryan-Lang has a number of duplicate magazines on sale, four for \$1. Miscellaneous Georgia Historical Quarterlies, Everton Genealogical Helpers, Georgia Magazine, Virginia Cavalcade, and books that have been given to the library but do not meet its criteria. Visit the library to make your selection.

ST. MARYS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, its bicentennial history printed in 1999. Order from St. Marys United Methodist Church, 106 E. Conyers Street, St. Marys, Georgia 31558. \$15 plus \$3 mailing.

The Lower Altamaha Historical Society has announced the publication of the 393-page **CEMETERIES OF MCINTOSH COUNTY**. You may order from the Society, c/o Mattie Gladstone, P.O. Box 712, Darien, Georgia 31305. \$30 plus \$5 mailing.

THANK YOU

To all who have made sure that the year 2000 was a successful year for the Society.

To President and Program Chairman Rodney Sheffield who brought great programs and rambles.

To Mildred Walko who handled the finances wisely and well.

To Susan Lee for keeping the records in order.

To Joyce Smith for handling the correspondence.

To Charles Thompson who wrestled with labels and mailing lists.

To Minnie Johnson and Nancy Crews for sticking stamps and labels and being sure the newsletters reached the post office on time.

To Bill Blankenship for handling the publicity and assured the Society a meeting place.

To Camden Printing who has continued to make the amateur efforts of newsletter editor Eloise Thompson look professional.

MEMBERSHIP

If you would like to join Guale Historical Society, send your dues to treasurer Mildred Walko, 800 Margaret Street, St. Marys, GA 31558. New members joining this late in the year will be 2001 members.

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

END OF YEAR NEWS

The November 14th meeting is the last for this year. The next meeting and Guale News will be in February — so Have a Happy Thanksgiving - a Merry Christmas - and a Truly Fine New Year.