



Gualle News

OCTOBER 1991

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FALL FUN FEATURE,

Historical Society to Ramble on up the Coast.

Saturday, October 19, 8:30 a.m.

The weather's great - and this is the last Ramble of the year, so grab your friends and let's go. Program planner and tour guide Henry Williams will be leading the expedition to two of Georgia's lesser known spots, Fort McAllister, just south of Savannah, and Woodmanston Plantation in Liberty County.

Plans call for the group once again to assemble and experience the Williams' great hospitality at their Cedar Point home west of Woodbine. Time 8:30. Carpooling available. Then it's on north for a great day.

The fort tour will end by lunchtime. Then it's back to the I-95 exit which is crowded with eating spots - so no one will have no problem with lunch. After lunch everyone will head south to Woodmanston (the LeConte Place) for a peek at what's been happening since the last trip there. Sounds like a full and interesting day. If you have questions, call Henry at 576-5421.

FORT McALLISTER

This earthen fort guarded the mouth of the Ogeechee River during the war of Northern aggression in the 1860's. By denying the use of the river to Federal vessels, it protected a strategic railroad bridge and the river plantations. After successfully resisting seven attacks by Union ironclads - its small garrison of 230 men finally fell to a land assault on December 13, 1864. This opened the river as a supply route for Sherman's forces on their way to occupy Savannah.

The fort was in ruins when Henry Ford came to Bryan County in the twenties. Restoration of the fort was one of the many civic projects he undertook while there. A bit of trivia - on your way from Richmond Hill (which incidentally was Way's Station before the Ford era) to the fort, watch for the miles of chain link fence on your left. This surrounds only a small portion of the former Ford estate, and is now the property of Ghaith Pharon of Saudi Arabia. (Or it was until his American assets were frozen for the role he played in the BCCI scandal.)

A well stocked museum tells the story of Fort McAllister - and a walk through the underground tunnels gives you a feel for the wartime experiences (without the cannon fire).

The fort is located ten miles east of I-95 on Georgia spur 144 next to Richmond Hill State Park. A small fee is charged.

WOODSMANSTON PLANTATION & LECONTE BOTANICAL GARDENS

Nothing remains of the plantation house, but the grounds are undergoing restoration by the Garden Club of Georgia. Here naturalist and scholar Louis LeConte established his world famous gardens in 1806 on lands that had been his father's as early as 1760. Here he developed among other hybrids the LeConte Pear. His sons John and Joseph were two of the most distinguished scholars of the Nineteenth Century. Some survivors of the original plants and an old rice field canal may be seen.

Don't forget all these may be seen on Saturday, October 19. See ya' at 8:30 at the Williams' home.

INTRODUCING & CONGRATULATIONS

- to Society member Shirley Thompson for receiving national recognition for her volunteer post as Secretary of the Year for National Camping Travelers. She was presented this award for her outstanding contribution by serving as secretary/treasurer and storekeeper of the Northeast Florida Chapter since 1986. NCT is a family-oriented group of Master Masons who travel and camp together nationwide.

Her award was also based on other community service which includes participation in Camp Pinckney Baptist Church, Burnt

Fort Chapel, and Order of the Eastern Star. She has also served several years as chairman of Camden County's Cancer Society and is a charter member of Gualle Historical Society. She has one of those spearheading the establishment of the Bryan-Lang Historical Library and continues to serve as corresponding secretary.

Her ties with Camden County brought her and her husband Ben back to the county when he retired to their home in the Burnt Fort area. So many family connections, Drurys and Joiners in particular, prompted her to write their history in her **WOODBINE TWINETH**. She has also written histories of the Burnt Fort Chapel and Oak Grove Church. Her two extensive finding lists **PEOPLE OF CAMDEN COUNTY BEFORE 1850** and **PEOPLE OF EAST FLORIDA** are Camden County researchers' guidebooks.

Congratulations Shirley for this well earned recognition!!

DID 'JA KNOW?

That although Camden County is Georgia's fastest growing county, its neighbor to the north Glynn County is considered an urban county and Camden a rural county - but back in 1845 Camden County had a population of 5,482 to Glynn's 4,327. Camden County had four post offices: Jefferson, St. Marys, Langsbury, and Centrevillage. Glynn had three: Frederica, Bethel and Brunswick. Camden County returned \$4,464.97 in state taxes in 1848, while Glynn returned \$2,674.03. (From George White's **STATISTICS OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA**)

COMING UP IN NOVEMBER

Mark your calendar for a regular meeting, November 12th. Details later. Committee reports are due and Officers will be elected. Nominating committee: Dot Holston, Muriel Williams, Debra Vasquez.

BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS

Don't forget two county histories are available. James Vocelle's 1914 **HISTORY OF CAMDEN COUNTY, GEORGIA**. This was reprinted last year by the Bryan-Lang Library and proceeds go for library projects. \$11.

Also **CAMDEN'S CHALLENGE, A HISTORY OF CAMDEN COUNTY**, published in 1976. This is not a sales pitch, but very few copies are left. If interested, better get one soon. They are selling well at Orange Hall, Bennett's Drugs, and the Bookseller. They are also available at Bryan-Lang. \$15.

Copies of member Mary Bullard's Cumberland Island books are available from the same sources with the proceeds benefiting Bryan-Lang. **BLACK LIBERATION**, \$11.95, and **GROWTH OF A PLANTER**, a biography of Robert Stafford, \$24.95.

A new book you might be interested in has just been released. **GEORGIA HISTORICAL MARKERS - COASTAL COUNTIES**, by Kenneth Boyd. This includes markers still standing and those erected years ago, that have since disappeared. This can well be used as a concise coastal history. \$9.95 at any coastal bookstore.

FROM BRYAN-LANG

Good news for county researchers. The oldest bound county records, and many loose papers that have been stored in one of the courthouse vaults have now been placed in the library and are more readily available for study.

Sixty-eight volumes, some dating to the 1700's, were rebound and laminated by the Georgia Archives in the fifties. Most papers have been indexed and laminated. Those not protected will be open for research under the guidance of librarian Dr. John Christian.

Included among them are Court Dockets, Grand Jury Presentments, Inferior Court Records, Land Court Journals,

Plats, Grant Books, and Tax Digests. You will find among the loose papers, some estate and court records. If you have questions about these, you can contact the library at 576-5601, ext. 243. Library hours are 8-5, Monday-Friday.

Reminder, the Bryan-Lang Library Board will meet Tuesday, October 22 at 5:00. Visitors are invited.

FROM OTHER SOCIETIES

Coastal Georgia Historical Society announces the opening of their latest exhibit at the Lighthouse Museum on St. Simons. This collection of photographs and interpretive displays honors older people, their first-hand knowledge of the past, and the preservation of cultural traditions passed down through generations. This will be exhibited through November 15.

The American Association for State and Local History has just awarded the Coastal Historical Society a Certificate of

Commendation for its contribution to local history and historic preservation. Only 68 organizations in the United States were so honored.

MEMBERS

(Continued From September Issue)

NEW: Marjorie Sylvia, Brunswick; Harold Heagy; Lessie Davison, Greenwich, Conn.; L. M. Vaughan, South Daytona.

RENEWED: Ernest Felder, Gert Kimberland, Mignon Sterling.

If you would like to renew or join, mail your dues to Mildred Walko, 800 Margaret Street, St. Marys 31558. Student \$2. Individual \$8. Family \$15.

REMINDER — RAMBLE: Saturday, October 19, at 8:30. Meet in Woodbine at the Williams' home.

Regular Meeting: Tuesday, November 12th.



CAN YOU IDENTIFY THESE HOUSE RUINS?

They were located west of White Oak near Tarbor. This picture was made in the sixties.

If you can identify them, please call John Christian, 576-5601, ext. 243.