



Buale News

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LET'S RAMBLE TO

WAYCROSS OKEFENOKEE HERITAGE CENTER WAYCROSS: GATEWAY TO THE WORLD FAMOUS OKEFENOKEE

Saturday October 22. Details: Meet at the old Winn Dixie across from the Methodist Church in Kingsland. 8:30 SHARP!

Brief business session at 8:00, then depart after report from nominating committee.

This will be a morning tour about 1 or 2 hours, group fee is \$1.50 per person. Group may then lunch (Dutch treat) at Shoney's or your choice. Afternoon free for other sites, on your own, suggestions follow. Will see you there!

OKEFENOKEE HERITAGE CENTER

This museum depicting the heritage and life of people living in and around the Okefenokee is located in Waycross between Corridor Z and US 1. Here you can study south Georgia Indians, step inside an 1840s frontier cabin, see the early machines of printing, climb aboard old railroad cars, ramble through and authentic depot, and learn even more about this area's history.

Those of you familiar with pioneer south Georgia families have only to glance through the nine volume set of Huxford's *Pioneers of Wiregrass Georgia* to realize that Ware County and Camden County families and histories are closely allied. Visiting this area will make you even more aware of this connection.

A suggestion for even more - right next door, but not included in tour, you will find the Southern Forest World, an educational exhibit center designed to tell the story of south-east Georgia's most important industry - forestry. Here you can learn about naval stores operations, the impact of the forest industry, understand forest management or more bizarre, see a mummified dog captured in a tree.

The surroundings of these two centers are quiet, tree shaded, beautifully landscaped, and you can choose the amount of walking you might want to do. US 1 between Folkston and Waycross is now four lane, with wildflowers blooming in force attracting thousands of yellow butterflies. So these crisp fall days bring promise of an easy colorful drive, and congenial companions offer an outstanding day. Ya'll come!!

OTHER SITES TO VISIT NEAR WAYCROSS

If you want to have a full day of sight-seeing these are among stops you might want to make after lunch:

Baptist Village, a retirement center on Carswell Avenue is located on the site of the old Hillard Plantation. (His old house is the one on display at the Heritage Center.) Here the spacious peccan grove grounds are quiet, the buildings attractive, and seeing the third largest of Georgia's documented liveoak tree measuring 30½ feet in circumference will make this an interesting drive-through.

Nearby is Waycross's oldest cemetery, Kettle Creek. This is on an old stagecoach route terminating in St. Marys and dating to early settlement days when Indians still roamed the woods and every able bodied man enlisted in the local militia to defend the settlers. Obadiah Barber, "King of the Okefenokee" or "Bear Hunter King" is buried here. You will also see the gravestones of the Hilliards, Millers, Jeffords, Sweats, Thigpen, MacDonald and other families prominent in south Georgia history.

The Obadiah Barber entrance to the Okefenokee is a more recent addition to the Ware County attractions and this is located 8½ miles from town with a boardwalk and an 1800 homestead.

The more familiar Okefenokee entrance is ten miles south of Waycross with boat rides, slide presentations, animal displays and more.

So come on along and bring a guest for a full day of fun and fellowship.

SNIPPETS FROM ORANGE HALL

St. Marys merchants will be having their annual open house on November 1, from 5-9pm. Local artist Tess Sheffield will be signing numbered prints of her "The Music Room" watercolor at Spencer House. The original work will be on display at this time.

In 1993 the music room at Orange Hall was dedicated to Mrs. Dot Barker who had been instrumental in restoring Orange Hall and who had given the antique piano on display there. After her death, Mrs. Sheffield painted this watercolor as a tribute to her. This scene will be used on the advertisements for the Christmas Tour of Homes. You will probably want to be early for the signing on November 1, since her 1993 "Christmas at Orange Hall" sold immediately.

Orange Hall has a new addition. A three tiered fountain that enhances its front yard. It gives the appearance of having been there always. Thank you Orange Hall committee for even more beauty at the "Grande Dame" of St. Marys historical buildings.

St. Marys Elementary student Eric Green won first place in the recent Orange Hall art contest. His entry has been reproduced on t-shirts that are now available at Orange Hall for \$10.

The Orange Hall committee asks your continued support of the structure's ongoing restoration. You may do this by attending the Christmas Tour of Homes on Saturday, December 17. Proceeds from ticket sales go to the Orange Hall project. More details in next newsletter - but in the meantime, put this on your calendar.

CAMDEN'S CHALLENGE, A HISTORY OF CAMDEN COUNTY

This was released last month with a party at Bryan-Lang Library. Some of the pre-publication purchasers have still not picked up their copies. So if you prepaid and do not yet have your book, it's waiting at the library.

If you have not yet ordered your copy of this revised edition, it is available at the library. More history, more pictures, more families! If you want to order, send \$30, plus \$4 mailing for the first copy and \$1 for each additional copy to: Bryan Lang Historical Library, P.O. Box 725, Woodbine, GA 31569. Make your check payable to Camden County.

FOR SALE AT THE LIBRARY

Of interest to researchers and old Camden families descendants: 1870 Camden County Census \$15 plus \$2 mailing, per book. 1900 Camden County Census \$20 plus \$2 mailing, per book.

Order from Bryan Lang Historical Library, make check payable to the library. See address above.

FROM OTHER AREAS

Effingham County offers its annual "Holiday Classic Business and Craft Show" including a Festival of Trees on November 12 and 13 in Springfield. This year a classic car show and a Christmas toy display will be added. For more details, contact the Chamber of Commerce there 912/754-3301.

Notice to Gowen descendants. The Gowen Research Foundation, a nonprofit heritage organization, offers a monthly newsletter with articles of interest to family members. Research information from the foundation's electronic library is also available to members. To join: \$12.50 a year to Gowen Research Foundation, 5708 Gary Avenue, Lubbock, TX 79413.

The Huxford Genealogical Library in Homerville is now open on Saturdays from 9 to 5 using volunteer help. It is open on weekdays, same hours, with its regular staff members. Its microfilm collection includes several southern states census records. Books with information from southern states number in the thousands. File folders with Mr. Huxford's notes are also available to researchers. If you want more details call 912/487-2310. Annual dues are \$25 per couple, which includes use of the library and quarterly magazines.

The Hempstead, a newly opened Bed and Breakfast, offers comfortable overnight accommodations in Homerville if you want to stay overnight for research.

The Coastal Georgia Genealogical Society in Brunswick is open to everyone interested in family history, the novice as well as the more experienced in searching for their backgrounds. This nonsectarian group meets the second Sunday of each month in the meeting hall of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 2911 Community Road. Dues are \$12 per year for individuals or \$15 for a family.

A QUOTE FROM WILL DURANT

"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, write poetry.

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

MEMBERS, new and renewing since September newsletter and through September 26: Richard Currier family (94 & 95); Geneva Stebbins (95), Darien; Thomas Cleland, Jacksonville (new); Mrs. G.L. Loggins, Jr. Jacksonville (new); Sharon Hogan Napoli, Jacksonville (new). Mrs. Joseph Clements.

Guale Historical Society invites YOU

- to discover Camden County, established in 1777
- to learn the background of this historical and unique region
- to be a member of an organization founded in 1977 and - dedicated to the preservation of the past, while moving to the future.

As a member of the Guale Historical society, you will

- attend exciting programs bringing the past to life
- travel throughout the area on rambles visiting historical sites
- receive newsletters bringing an update of historical events

This is your invitation to be a part of the historical community. Memberships available from Treasurer Mildred Walko, 800 Margaret Street, St. Marys, Georgia 31558.

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

If you are a new member dues paid in October will apply to 1995. If you are a renewing member, they were due last January, for dues run from January to January.

REMEMBER Saturday, October 20, Ramble to Okefenokee Heritage Center in Waycross. Meet at the old Winn Dixie Building in downtown Kingsland, 8:30