



Guale News

OCTOBER 2000

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OCTOBER RAMBLE, SATURDAY 28TH

Pay your respects to Floyds, Holzendorfs, Peeples and others at several cemeteries — plus seeing both 19th and 20th century tabby structures!

9:00 — Meet at Aventis (formerly Rhone Poulenc and once Union Carbide) gate at end of Harriett's Bluff Road. This is the exit from I-95 just north of Crooked River. After seeing a brief safety film, then a representative of Aventis will escort the group to the ruins of John Floyd's anchor house and the Floyd family cemetery.



Ruins of John Floyd's Bellevue Home

The next stop will be the J.L.K. Holzendorf cemetery on Sheffield Island off Harriett's Bluff Road. This is in the yard of the Herbert Sheffield home, which was probably the last structure built utilizing the original tabby construction technique in Camden County.

The much larger Holzendorf Cemetery will be the third stop of the morning. This is due west across U.S. 17 a mile or so from the end of Harriett's Bluff Road. This cemetery was the first one cleared as part of Sheriff Bill Smith's Cemetery Clearing project, which Society member Jasper Lang has worked so closely with.

Mid-day — Dutch treat lunch in Kingsland, site to be announced.

After lunch — The group will head southwest from Kingsland down Clark's Bluff Road, to the very end to find Oak Well/Clark's Bluff Cemetery. This is very near the spot of the Oak Well settlement where George Peeples had a store and a brickyard. It was a regular stopping point for the HILDEGARDE and other steamers traveling the St. Marys River. At Oakwell, Julius King started the county's oldest continuous newspaper, THE SOUTHEAST GEORGIAN.

If you need further information or would like to join the group later than the official meeting time, please call Program Planner Rodney Sheffield for directions and time, 729-5245.

See you on Saturday, October 28, 9:00 at Aventis gate.

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, ST. MARYS LIBRARY. Watch your newsletter, election of officers.

GENEALOGY CORNER FLOYD FAMILY

The Floyd family moved from South Carolina to McIntosh County, father Charles, born 1747 in Virginia, and his only son John, born in South Carolina in 1769. In 1800, they moved on to Camden County when they began acquiring lands in Camden County on the Satilla River. Their holdings would eventually stretch all the way south to Crooked River and west to today's present day U.S. 17.

Charles built his plantation, Bellevue, which later became the home site of son John: John's homesite, Fairfield, where the family cemetery is located, then became the home of John's son Charles Rinaldo. The elder Charles's wife Mary Fendin Floyd died in 1804 with Charles following in 1820. John married Isabella Maria Hazzard (1773-1859), daughter of Richard. John died in 1839.

John is the one that constructed a magnificent tabby home in the shape of an anchor. One tradition says that he wanted "to anchor himself to the site"; another says that he was reflecting the family's ties to the sea with their ship-building enterprise.

Today with the site surrounded by trees, it is difficult to picture the activity on the Floyd property. Besides the shipyard, a parade ground used by the county militia was nearby and so hardpacked from use that no trees could grow there until the land was plowed for tree farming in the thirties.

Charles Rinaldo was also a well known gunsmith and built an armory on the property. In fact, his grandson Mamaduke Floyd later explained to a journalist that his grandfather had actually crafted David Crockett's Old Betsy that was still with him in his final days at the Alamo.

The Floyd lands were the site of America's first hunting club with a roster of plantation owners that is a Who's Who of Glynn and Camden counties.

Both John and Charles R. were military men. General John Floyd played a prominent role in the War of 1812 and in Indian Wars. Charles R. was in the Indian wars also, accompanying the Indians on the infamous Cherokee Trail of Tears west. The Floyd name lives on in Floyd County in north Georgia and Floyd's Island in the Okefenokee.

For more of their exploits and more family details, visit the Bryan-Lang Library, where Midge Mathews has placed the papers of family historian Alice Tonge and copies of her own extensive work on the Floyds and allied families, as well as family diaries. The Floyd family members kept journals depicting their daily lives and many of these diaries are in the library, thanks to Midge. Some information is in the county history CAMDEN'S CHALLENGE.

John's children were:

CHARLES, died as infant

MARY HAZZARD, 1795-1888, married Col. Everard Hamilton

CHARLES RINALDO, 1797-1845, married Catherine Sophia Powell, Julia Ross Boog

SARAH CATHERINE WIGG, 1799-1876, married Dr. Aimee DeLarocheaullon/DeLaroch

JOHN FENDIN, 1802-1830, married Ann H. Alston

SUSAN LODVISKI DIXON, 1804-1873, married Col. Benjamin Hopkins

CAROLINA ELIZA LOUISA, 1806-1877, married Major James Hamilton Blackshear

WILLIAM HENRY, 1808-1814

RICHARD FERDINAND, 1810-1870, married Mary Ann Chevalier

MELINDA ISABELLA, 1812-1831, married Col. Wm. Proctor Hopkins

SAMUEL AUGUSTUS, 1814-1878, single

HENRY HAMILTON, 1817-1873, married Margaret Ann Boog, Mordina Jane Boog

COMING UP SOON

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH CENTENNIAL

Mark your calendars for St. Mark's grand 100th! On Sunday, November 12th, the little church by the side of

U.S. 17 in Woodbine will be celebrating 100 years of worship and service to the community. Everyone is invited to Homecoming, especially anyone who has had ties to St. Mark's or whose families have been a part of its great history. The Reverend David Somerville will be conducting the 11:00 service, assisted by past pastors. An old-fashioned dinner-on-the-ground picnic will follow the service.

St. Mark's grew out of the Satilla Bluff church, which closed as that settlement faded and Woodbine grew. J. K. Bedell, who donated lands for public buildings in the budding town, donated a one-half acre tract and in 1900, the men of the community began construction. Lumber came from nearby sawmills. Ballast rocks came from the piles along the Satilla River left by sailing vessels. Tabby covered the exterior walls.

E. P. Noyes, then living at Ceylon just upstream from Woodbine, hand-tooled the arches and bishop's chair. The windows came from a church in England. Today many of St. Mark's worshippers are descendants of the original congregation.

BOOKS AND BOOKS

Newly reprinted **PEN PORTRAITS** is now on sale at Bryan-Lang Library, PO Box 725, Woodbine 31569; from Woodbine Woman's Club Members; Once Upon a Book-seller in St. Marys. \$15 with \$2 handling if ordered. This was originally published in 1969 from a collection of articles about Camden County women and their families. It is a good mix of family information with personal glimpses of earlier days.

Copies of **CAMDEN'S CHALLENGE, A HISTORY OF CAMDEN COUNTY** are still available from Bryan-Lang Library for \$30 with \$4 mailing. Look ahead to Christmas - will be a nice gift for anyone living in or interested in Camden County. Copies are also available at Once Upon a Bookseller.

The bicentennial history of St. Marys United Methodist Church may be ordered from the church, 106 E. Conyers Street, St. Marys, GA 31558. \$15 plus \$3 mailing. It has biographies of most of the ministers serving the church over the 200-year span with pictures of many of them along with old pictures of the church and members. Once Upon a Bookseller will be sponsoring a book signing for this and other books on November 14th, the night of the merchant's Christmas Open House.

BRICK SALES CONTINUE

Don't forget to support the Woodbine School Renovation by honoring someone with a commemorative brick. One brick \$35, 2-5 \$30 each, 6 or more \$25 each. Order forms may be picked up at Bryan-Lang Library or order from Hoydt Drury 912-576-8165. The bricks will be used for walkways and patios around the building.

NEXT GUALE NEWS ISSUE — WATCH FOR AN UPDATE ON THE COUNTY CEMETERY PROJECT

FROM OTHER AREAS

Harvest Time at Westville, "Georgia's Working 1850 Town" in Lumpkin, Georgia. October 12-November 12: Fair of 1850 depicting farm activities of that period. For more information, call 800-733-1850 or check the Web Site www.westville.org.

GENEALOGY HELPS

Georgia Genealogical Society, founded in 1964, offers a newsletter and quarterly magazine with Bible records, articles of interest to researchers and book reviews. Members may submit queries. Dues are \$25 a year. Mail to Georgia Genealogical Society, PO Box 54575, Atlanta 30308-0575.

Huxford Genealogical Society, PO Box 595, Homerville, GA 31634 also offers quarterly magazines of tremendous help for those with ancestors in southeast Georgia. Its library is also a rich resource center. Dues are \$25 annually. Its books and quarterlies are available at Bryan-Lang Library. St. Marys City Library also has copies of the ten-volume set of **PIONEERS OF WIREGRASS GEORGIA**.

FIRST-TIME MEMBERS 2000

Quincy Adams Family; Helen C. Alexander, Titusville; Roy L. Baker; Holst C. Beall, Jr., Macon (2001); Richard D. Blocker; Winifred Boykin Family, Fernandina; Kenneth Cassels, Jacksonville; Don & Carolyn Crews; Libby Dawson, Yulee; David J. Drury, Jr. Family, Folkston; Hoydt Drury; Evelyn Eubank, Ormand Beach; Heather Ferguson; Barbara Fields; Allan Giese Family; Mac & Barb Harden; William F. Hodges Family, Macon; Scott & Aimee Lamb; Jasper & Lynn Lang; Nancy Michaluk, Heathrow, FL; Norman & Barbara Miller, Jacksonville; Mike & Mary Neff; Jay Spancake/Patricia Rumsey; Frank & Mary Stagl; Louis B. Vocelle; Billy & Beverly Woods.

OTHER EARLY BIRDS FOR 2001

Bill Blankenship; Carol Jones, Tallahassee; John Love Family; Agnes McArthur; Mary McLaughlin; Virginia Proctor; Carol Rowland, St. Augustine; William Stoddard Family.

Memberships for the year 2000: 78 Family Members
72 Individuals

MEMBERSHIPS

Membership Dues may be sent to Treasurer Mildred Walko, 800 Margaret Street, St. Marys, GA 31558.
Family \$15 Individual \$8 Student \$2

IN MEMORIAM

W. C. (Bill) King

See You on the Ramble, Saturday, October 28th, 9:00, Gate at Avenis