



Guale News

SEPTEMBER 1991

VOLUME 11, No. 5

LET'S VISIT HOFWYL PLANTATION AND FORT KING GEORGE SEPTEMBER RAMBLE TO BE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Time to put on walking shoes again and let's go exploring. Program chairman Henry Williams has put together plans for another fun Saturday. If you haven't visited Hofwyl in north Glynn County or Fort King George just across the river in McIntosh, you have a treat in store. The Society made this trip several years ago, but there is always something new to see, such as Ft. King George's Blockhouse.

Details: Meet at the Williams home in Woodbine at 8:30 for coffee and carpooling. They live about a mile west of U.S. 17 on Third Street at Cedar Point. For more directions call 576-5421. This is a half day trip and everyone will be on his own for lunch with many spots to eat nearby. A small admission is charged at each place.

WHAT TO SEE AT HOFWYL

Hofwyl Plantation, now a State Park, is hidden in a grove of liveoaks just off U.S. 17. The last survivor of the Dent family left this well preserved former rice plantation and dairy farm to the State of Georgia as a legacy for future generations.

You will see models and pictures of rice fields with tidal gates and the implements used in each stage of rice production. You will see a film depicting life on rice plantations that once flourished only in a thin band along the streams where water was fresh and yet tides still ebbed and flowed.

You will walk out onto rice fields now overgrown with marshes and across old pasturelands. (Those unable to do this may ride to the plantation house.) The Dent home itself stands with family furnishings still intact, and where site interpreters bring the past to life with background stories.

ON TO FORT KING GEORGE

North on U.S. 17, still traveling through old rice fields and across deltas of the Great Altamaha, the group will reach Darien and Ft. King George in only about twenty minutes. Here a museum will give the history of this site beginning in the seventeenth century when Guale Indians and Spanish missionaries were living here at Lower Bluff. Artifacts from that era are on display.

A blockhouse replica and gravestones, as well as museum displays, represent the next period 1721-1727 when South Carolinians established a fort here to prevent the French from colonizing the banks of the Altamaha.

Oglethorpe's era is represented also, showing the re-establishment of this fort only three years after the founding of Savannah. This was the beginning of the town of Darien.

Darien thrived during the timber era when rafts of logs were floated down the great Altamaha to the numerous sawmills here at the site of the museum, in Darien and on surrounding islands. This period is portrayed quite well in pictures and artifacts.

A study of Darien's history and census records show a close connection between McIntosh and Camden counties with the movement of many families back and forth.

(If you would like to prepare for the trip over, you might want to read Buddy Sullivan's McIntosh history **EARLY DAYS ON THE GEORGIA TIDEWATER.**)

So be ready for another **GREAT** day!

NEWS FROM BURNT FORT

In 1977, many of you attended the Dedication of the Burnt Fort Chapel near the site of what was once the busy timber town of Burnt Fort and have continued to visit each month when Sunday afternoon services are held.

You will recall that this chapel is a replica of the original built

in the 1880's and used by several denominations. You will also recall how the Burnt Fort community worked together to build the existing chapel using lumber cut from standing timber on the site. Many generous contributions and much hard work made this possible.

Now the chapel is in trouble, but thanks again to a united community this has been remedied. Due to a structural defect the sides were bowing out causing a sagging roof. Correcting the problem was a major expense - and financial help is needed.

One of the fund raising projects is the reprinting of the illustrated dedication booklet which Society member Shirley Thompson wrote and has now updated. If you would like a copy (\$5), or want to make a tax deductible contribution, contact Shirley Thompson, Box 157-B, Route 1, Waynesville, GA 31566 or for more details call her at 576-5084. Copies of the book are also available at Bryan-Lang Library.



BURNT FORT CHAPEL WITH CEMETERY IN BACKGROUND.

NEWS FROM BRYAN-LANG HISTORICAL LIBRARY

Dr. John Christian reminds members that the library is receiving new research books and microfilm regularly, as well as donated family histories. You don't necessarily have to be a descendant of Camden County oldtimers to find information in the library. Material from other areas is also available.

Two helpful books just arrived: **HOW TO RESEARCH INDIAN BLOODLINES** and **AMERICAN COURTHOUSE ADDRESSES**, helpful for ordering family records.

If you haven't visited lately, you will want to see the new materials. Ask also to see General John Floyd's baby dress which was contributed by the John Floyd Chapter DAR.

INTRODUCING...

Continuing the practice of introducing out-of-town members, the member of the month is Patricia C. Barefoot/aka Mary Musgrove. Patricia is an interpretive park ranger at Ft. Frederica sometimes taking the role of various individuals once a part of the fort's life. She is also responsible for many of the interesting publications available at the fort museum. Her maternal line includes the Joiner family giving her a close tie to Camden County.

NEWS FROM OTHER SOCIETIES

Georgia's Secretary of State Max Cleland has written that the State Archives has reinstated mail reference service which had been suspended because of budget cuts. If you need this research service, a fee of \$15 provides professional service with a report

on sources checked and suggestions for further research, photocopies, handling and postage. Out-of-state queries cost \$25.

The Georgia Historical Society will sponsor a program "Slave Life in Coastal Georgia" featuring Malcolm Bell, author of MAJOR BUTLER'S LEGACY: FIVE GENERATIONS OF A SLAVEHOLDING FAMILY and recipient of the 1991 Governor's Award in the Humanities. This will be presented at the Society headquarters in Savannah on September 19 at 7:00 and again at Ft. Frederica on September 29 at 3:00. The Coastal Georgia Historical Society is co-sponsor.

Another event of interest marks the 200th anniversary of the publication of William Bartram's TRAVELS. This Bartram Tail Conference will be November 8 & 9 at the DeSoto Hilton in Savannah. For details call (912) 944-5766. An exhibit related to his travels will be located at Massie Interpretation Center there. After November 15, the exhibit will be displayed at the Coastal Museum on St. Simons.

Cumberland Island Museum headed by biologist Carol Ruckdeschel now has a newsletter of interest to all area naturalists. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, you may get details from Carol at Box 796, St. Marys, GA 31558. The last issue stated that the exterior of the museum is now completed with interior work well underway. Contributions are always appreciated.

Friends of the National Archives-Southeast Region will be sponsoring a one day Genealogical Book Fair and Family History Spectacular on Saturday, September 21. In addition to book stalls and genealogical displays, workshops on genealogical research and preservation of family records will be held. This will be held at the Georgia International Convention and Trade Center near the airport in Atlanta. Watch newspapers for more information.

Historic Augusta and Partners for Sacred Places, a national center for the preservation of religious properties plan a southeastern conference on the care of religious buildings. Emphasis will be on maintenance of historic churches, camp meeting grounds, parsonages, etc. in small cities and rural communities. Restoration, design and improvements will be among the topics addressed. This is scheduled for November 21-23. More details will be available as the time nears.

THANK YOU TO LAVIECE SMALLWOOD

Laviece's Florida Times Union column Out On A Limb devoted to Gule Historical Society and its activities has brought many new members to the Society. Thank you so much for this June 9 article, and thank you to the many readers who decided to become a part of Gule Historical Society.

Several Society members were involved in a letter writing campaign several weeks ago urging the newspaper to continue printing Out On A Limb weekly when it appeared to become a sometime article. Laviece and Executive Features Editor Sarah Wood both sent their appreciation for interest shown by members.

SOMETHING BORROWED

We are lifting a quote of local interest from Horizons, the newsletter of the Coastal Georgia Archaeological Society. They in turn were quoting from an 1889 Savannah newspaper.

"Camden County furnishes Brunswick with a great deal of raccoon meat. Hardly a morning passes but that somebody brings over a boatload of dressed 'coons, and there seems to be a great demand for them."

NEW BOOKS

A number of new books have come out this summer. Some of these are available in local libraries, some you might want for reference. Consult a local bookstore.

GEORGIA HISTORICAL MARKERS: COASTAL COUNTIES, published by Cherokee Publishing Company. This is not to be confused with the one published several years ago by the CAPDC. This is a fresh illustrated book that includes many of the markers erected years ago along the Coastal Highway (U.S. 17) long before the state Historic Commission began placing theirs. Copies are \$9.95

THE JOURNAL OF ARCHIBALD MCKINLEY, edited by Robert L. Humphries gives a firsthand account of life on Sapelo Island during the timber era of McIntosh County. McKinley was married to the granddaughter of Sapelo plantation owner Thomas Spalding, and this gives family connections as well as events in post Civil War years.

If you have ever attempted to glean information from 75 years of Georgia Historical Quarterlies, you will appreciate the index soon to be released by the Georgia Historical Society. Copies are \$85 with a 6% sales tax and \$3.75 postage. Address for ordering is 501 Whitaker Street, Savannah 31499. A copy has been purchased for the Bryan-Lang Library.

The last chance to reserve your copy of the third printing of Louise Barfield's HISTORY OF HARRIS COUNTY 1827-1961 and its index COMPREHENSIVE TOPICAL INDEX. Only prepublication orders can be made and the deadline is September 15. Each book is \$58.45 which includes tax and postage. Order from Cherith Creek Designs, P.O. Box 123, Columbus, GA 31902.

MEMBERS

(Continued From May Issue)

NEW: L.D. Johnson family; David Richmond family; William A. Gay family; Pauline Bosserd; Connie Freeman; Alice Chauncey; Ruby Perritt, St. George; Ed Canady, Jacksonville; Mrs. George Watkins, Ponte Vedra; Marlois Keith, Fernandina; Wanda Arnold, Hilliard; Chris Morlock, Jacksonville; Lutrelle Weathers, Jacksonville; Brian Boggs, Jekyll Island; Patricia Overholt, Jekyll; William Thompson, Savannah; Wilma McQueen, Neptune Beach; Florida House Inn (Bob & Karen Warren) Amelia Island; William Hansen, Jacksonville; Mayevette Gillilan, Monte Vista, CO; Patricia Barefoot, St. Simons; Elaine Sweat, Jacksonville; Josephine Demmond; Calenda Perry Mrs. David Proctor.

RENEWED: Mrs. William Bullard family, George Long family, Herbert Rowland family, George Hannaford, Louise Bailey, Arlen & Richard Currier, Mrs. Howard Horne, Minnie & Vernon Johnson, Dot & Alton Murray, Virginia Rowland, Annabelle Buie, Catherine MacDonell, Carolyn Rock, Carolyn Anderson, Agnes McArthur, Helen Lang. CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL If you have not renewed for 1991 a red star should appear and you need to send your dues in right away to remain on the mailing list. If a black star appears, that means that you have already renewed for 1992. If there is an error please let newsletter editor Eloise Bailey (882-4587) know.

Dues should be sent to treasurer Mildred Walko, 800 Margaret Street, St. Marys 31558. Student \$2; Individual \$8; Family \$15.

DON'T FORGET — Gule Historical Society Ramble for members and guests, September 14, 8:30 SHARP. You do not have to make reservations. Just come on and join the crowd!