

SEPTEMBER 1997

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ALL ABOARD FOR **CUMBERLAND ISLAND** Sunday, September 7.

Guale Flash in June alerted Society members to a panned Plum Orchard trip. Reservations with ferry fees paid in advance had to be made early and many re-

Details are: Meet at Cumberland Island dock in St. Marys at 8:30 with your lunch, drinks, sunscreen, walking shoes rain gear, etc. The rangers will give more instructions there. An additional fee of \$6.36 for traveling on to Plum Orchard will be collected later.

Schedule: Arrive St. Marys dock 8:30 Boat arrives Cumberland Island 9:45

Disembark Dungeness dock and tour historical district

Walk to Sea Camp (about a mile)

Return to boat at Sea Camp at 12:30 and continue to Plum Orchard (Guale Society members James and Ann Stacy are NPS volunteers and lead the Plum Orchard tours.)

Arrive St. Marys 5:30

(All times firm, not negotiable)

If you have questions, call Program Chairman Rodney Sheffield 729-5245 or Eloise Thompson 882-4587.



TO BE SEEN

The Thomas Carnegie family began Cumberland Island purchases on the south end in 1881. Their holdings would later expand to encompass ninety percent of the island. The family home Dungeness was built on the foundation of the Greene mansion and was completed after the death of Mr. Carnegie. His widow Lucy Coleman Carnegie completed Dungeness and lived there until her



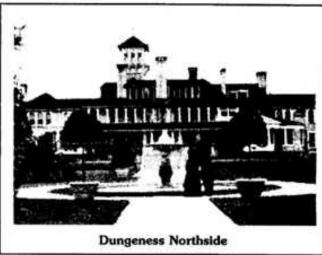
Dungeness Southside

death in 1910. The building burned in 1959. The Park Service has stabilized the ruins.

Nearby is a tabby structure dating to the Greene era. It is now being repaired by preservationists. This building has had varied uses, the latest as Carnegie family office before the island became a National Seashore.

Other structures which Guale visitors will see will be the carriage house, the ruins of the poolhouse and the wooden structures used as laundry, worker's dining ball and dormitory.

The icehouse by the dock at Dungeness has been made into a small museum giving the history of the island. Here you will learn of the Indians, the Spanish and English influence, with a sample of the Carnegie era.



The south end tour will include, if time allows, the Greene family cemetery on the shore of Beach Creek. Among the burials are those of Caty Greene Miller, her daughter Louisa Shaw and her husband James Shaw. The most interesting marker is that telling that General Lighthorse Harry Lee is NOT buried there. He was, but the body was moved to Virginia in 1913.

Sea Camp has the only developed campsite on the island. Other more primitive sites are available farther to the north.

On the way to Plum Orchard, the boat will pass two other Carnegie family homes. Greyfield is now an inn. Stafford, built on the site of Thomas Stafford's home, remains in private hands with life estate.

Plum Orchard on the south leg of Brickhill River was donated along with twelve acres of land to the Park Service in 1971. The NPS is now trying to locate some group to lease and restore the house.

This Greek revival style mansion was built in 1898 for the son of Thomas and Lucy Carnegie George and his wife Margaret Thaw.

These are the "things" we will see on our visit to Cumberland Island - but the highlight will be the maritime oaks, water and land birds, deer, horses, turkeys, and armadillos. After all, the natural history of the island is its main attraction.

A full day awaits all of you who have planned to visit Cumberland Island on September 7.



HALLOWEEN AND OCTOBER MEETING

Looking ahead to October. Put Tuesday, October 21st 7:00 on your calendar. Georgia Southern Professor and Elderhostel instructor James L. Johnson will be here to regale you with Southern folklore and ghost tales. He specializes in Coastal tales, but for this visit will emphasize the ghost tales of Camden County.

To get more in the spirit of the spirit world, the meeting will be held at Orange Hall - where "it is said" those of the nether world abound. So be brave, be there and be entertained and possibly, even be bewitched. More in next newsletter.



BRYAN-LANG HISTORICAL LIBRARY

The library celebrated its 10th anniversary on Sunday afternoon, July 13th with a reception. The library, under the leadership of Dr. John Christian, has expanded its holdings considerably since its opening with the collection of Miss Bebe Lang. The books and papers of the late Mrs. Kenneth Berry were a gift of her nephew Judge Alex Williams of Atlanta several years later. Society member Patricia Barefoot has been transferring her documents to acid free folders and cataloguing the information.

In addition to purchases and other gifts, many of the Camden County older records have been added to enlarge the material available to the researcher. County newspapers and many state census records are available on microfilm.

The library is located near the courthouse in Woodbine. Its hours are 8-5, Monday-Friday. If you want to call, its number is 912/576-5841.

Incidentally, if you do not have the updated county history CAMDEN'S CHALLENGE, you may pick one up at the library. Or send for one, PO Box 725, Woodbine, GA 31569. \$30 plus \$4 postage and handling.



McINTOSH SUGARHOUSE RUINS

Students Helen Zukoff and Nicole Millech have become interested in the ruins and spent much of their summer picking up litter, painting the graffiti covered trash cans, shoring up the fence, and planting flowers in some of the bare spaces. Thank you Helen and Nicole.



FROM OTHER SOCIETIES

Lower Altamaha Historical Society will be visiting Camden County and touring the tabby ruins and St. Marys or October 18. Society member Eloise Thompson will be leading the group. Society president John Christian will speak at their meeting in Darien the week before, preparing them for the trip to Camden County. Our Society is always happy to be host to other historical groups.

Georgia Historical Society will host a lecture on October 1 at 7 pm in the Day Chapel at Carter Presidential Center in Atlanta and on October 2 at 7 pm in Independent Presbyterian Church in the historic district of Savannah.

Dr. James Robertson, well-known scholar, author, and historian will speak on his recently published biography STONEWALL JACKSON: THE MAN, THE SOLDIER, THE LEGEND. Dr. Robertson has published over twenty books on Civil War history and won every major award for his Civil War scholarship.

Friends of the Archives, Southeast Region, is sponsoring a genealogical seminar on Saturday September 20 at the Gwinnett Civic Center in Duluth. The daylong session will include these topics: Conducting Research in Virginia, Researching "Burned Counties", Using Electronic Media for Research. A panel of experts will be on hand to answer genealogical puzzlers. Dr. Christian at the Bryan-Lang Library has an application if you are interested or write Friends of the National Archives, c/o John Crawford, 4364 Hambrick Way, Stone Mountain, GA 30083-1718.



GEORGIA HISTORICAL QUARTERLY FEATURES SHIPS

Former Guale Historical Society member William Wells has an article in the winter edition of the quarterly "The Perception of Naval Protection: Southern Galleys, 1798-1800." Mr. Wells is a retired Coast Guardsman and now staff member at the Reese Library at Augusta State University.

He has been researching early vessels for many years and has included Camden County information in his studies. St. Marys resident John Howell, who was captain of the ST. MARYS, is among those named. A copy of the Historical Quarterly is available at the Bryan-Lang.



MEMBERSHIPS

If your name has not appeared earlier or does not appear on this list, please send your 1997 dues to Treasurer Mildred Walko, 800 Margaret St., St. Marys, GA 31558.

Do NOT send to Newsletter PO Box or Bryan-Lang Library. If we sound a bit testy, we probably are, for sending to anyone other than the treasurer delays your being acknowledged and involves a "middle man" and remailing. So PLEASE mail to 800 Margaret Street.

Members added since May: Families - Henry Williams, Sr.; Henry Williams, Jr.; Gene Watson (New); Vernon Johnson; Grayson Day; William Kelly; Bob Peterson, Seattle; Herbert Rowland. 42 families total.

Individuals - Mary Bullard, So. Dartmouth; Thomas Cleland, Jacksonville; Mrs. Joseph Clements; Kathleen Davis, Fernandina; Catherine MacDonell; Laura Nasworthy, St. George; Kathryn Payne; Lois Adams, Jacksonville (New); Kent Chauncey, Orem, Utah; Mary Louise Nelson, Fernandina; R.G. Raymund, St. Simons; Pat Williams. 56 Individuals total.