



# Gule News

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## ROBERT HURST, WARE COUNTY HISTORIAN, TO SPEAK AT FALL MEETING PLAN TO MEET, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 BRYAN-LANG HISTORICAL LIBRARY 7:00, Executive Session 6:30

Bob Hurst, retired teacher, historian, author, will be talking about south Georgia history. His *MAGIC WILDERNESS*, a collection of historical writings, was originally published in two parts. It is now available as a single hardback volume.

Thumbing through this 500 page book makes the reader aware that Bob knows not only Ware County and the Okfeenokee, but the surrounding area as well. His history not only covers his native Ware County but also holds many Camden and Charlton tidbits. The introduction to his book says "...some phases of history are unpleasant; nevertheless we cannot change what has been; we strive to change what will be." No doubt he will be presenting both aspects of our south Georgia history to Gule Historical Society members and guests.

Before his retirement, he was a journalism instructor and the director of public relations in the Ware County School System. He was named one of the outstanding journalism instructors in the nation and one of the two leading media instructors in Georgia.

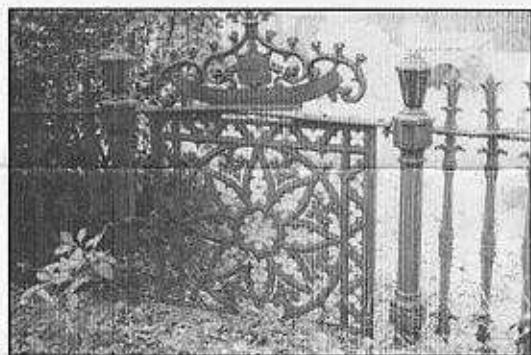
He shared his research for *MAGIC WILDERNESS* with his students, giving them firsthand experience in discovering their neighborhood's past.

You will not want to miss this opportunity to hear a foremost Georgia history expert speak!

### GALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1978-1998

This is the TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY of the Gule Historical Society. In celebration, refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the program and a brief history of the Society given. Charter members who are members today are Charles Smith, Jr. Family; Tilden and Arlene Norris; Shirley Thompson; Eloise Thompson; Dot Holston; H.A. Bennett Family; Flem Hall Family; and Martha Brandon.

If you have been overlooked, please let me know before the meeting so you can be recognized. (882-4587)



Wrought Gate at Lang Cemetery near Satilla Bluff

### A MESSAGE FROM THE CEMETERY SURVEY COMMITTEE

Committee Chairman Rodney Sheffield sends this report along with a plea for help.

With the arrival of cooler weather, below 100 degrees, your cemetery survey committee has started work on the cemeteries of Camden County. Because of the number of hours required in each

cemetery, this work will probably take more than a year to complete.

As of today (Aug. 8) we have mapped and recorded eight cemeteries of 129 that have been located. The small amount of work done so far reveals the urgent need to gather this information before it is lost forever. On August 5th, while working a cemetery in the western part of the county, we found gravestones that had been bulldozed the week before for the construction of a new subdivision.

We use a standardized registration form to record the information on each cemetery and each marked grave. Cemeteries in use that contain unmarked graves are mapped and the graves are plotted on a map of the cemetery.

Whenever possible, in addition to recording the data on the stones, we add the name of the spouse, children, mother and father on the registration form. Historical facts about the people buried that may be of interest is also added to the sheet. In addition, we add a rough sketch of the marker and other prudent information.

Directions to the cemetery and its condition are also noted. A brief history of the cemetery is added.

In the future, we hope to use a G.P.S. (Global Positioning System). Roads and other landmarks move; this unit gives longitude and latitude, two numbers that never change. Thus the location of the cemetery will be permanently recorded.

So, if you would like a subdued version of Indiana Jones - come join us. We can't promise 2000 year old tombs or lost treasures. We can promise rain - heat - snakes - spiders. You can learn firsthand how unmarked graves are located, and be a part of recording some of the history of Camden County. Best of all, you will explore parts of the county most people never see and, in addition, learn some of the history that has never been written.

If you would like to help or know of a cemetery or grave site that we might not be aware of, please call Rodney Sheffield at 729-5245 or Dr. John Christian at 576-5841.

### A MINI RAMBLE

An unscheduled ramble will take place one weekday in September or October to the Floyd Cemetery. This cemetery is ordinarily inaccessible, but Floyd descendant Midge Mathews will be coming down to go with the cemetery survey committee to help catalog this. If you have never been and would like to be a part of this trip, please call Rodney at 729-5245. He will then call you when a date and time has been set.

**HISTORIC TIDBIT** coming from the cemetery survey team chairman - thanks to a new book at Bryan-Lang, *CAMPFIRES OF GEORGIA TROOPS*, the Confederate campsite near Colesburg has been identified as Camp Tattnall. According to this new book, the Partisan Unit 4th Ga. Regt., Co. E first camped there followed by the 29th Cavalry. There is at least one grave located there.

### GENEALOGY CORNER - THE MILLS FAMILY

Once again we are borrowing from Society member Shirley Thompson's *WOODBINE TWINETH*, her well researched Joiner, Drury and related families book. She has also supplied us with additional notes about the Mills family.

Shirley has reported that an archaeological dig is taking place at Joseph Mill's home site at Cedar Point Plantation on Cedar Creek in Duval County. Ancient tabby walls mark the site, but the archaeologists believe that these date a little later than Joseph's time. But they have uncovered even older wooden ruins that most assuredly are of the era of either Joseph or his father Samuel.

The Samuel Mills family were probably in South Carolina before joining the Quaker group who followed Edmund Grey from Augusta to a settlement which they founded and named New

Hanover, located thirty miles up the Satilla River. In this group of about three hundred settlers were both Samuel Mills Sr. and Jr. They both signed as commissioners of this group in 1756.

By 1769, all settlers had left New Hanover, some to move to Cumberland Island, the Mills family with them. Many, including the Mills, moved into Florida as the Revolution approached to remain there as neutrals.

Florida had belonged to Spain until 1763 when it was ceded to England, but in 1783 it was returned to Spain. The Spanish census of 1783 shows that Joseph with his wife and his father Samuel lived on a 200 acre tract at Cedar Point.

Joseph later applied for a Spanish grant to increase the holdings he had inherited from his father. Samuel's death date is not known, but it is believed that he is buried on the Cedar Point property.

The Joseph Mills property of 440 acres was sold to William Fitzpatrick, so Mills and his family moved to Camden County near the Centerville/Coleraine area, in the section that became Charlton County in 1854.

Joseph Mills had married Elizabeth Lane, daughter of Daniel William Lane, before moving to Florida.

Parish records in St. Augustine show the baptism of two of Joseph's daughters, Elizabeth Rachel in 1790 and another Elizabeth in 1793.

Elizabeth Rachel married Charles N. Drury on October 17, 1807, and she died about 1888.

Elizabeth, born in 1792 (although baptized in 1793), married George Fleming.

The third child, Joseph Jr., was born in 1795 and married Elizabeth McClellan, daughter of Samuel, on December 28, 1826.

The fourth, Ann Sarah, born in 1799, married a McKinner (or McKendree or McKinnon).

Joseph Mills died in Camden County about 1810 with his will probated in 1825. Elizabeth died about 1840.

The old Mills cemetery is located on private property north of Highway 40 in Charlton County. If the older Mills are buried there, they are in unmarked graves.

### BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS

Remember a couple of years ago when Parapsychologist (ghost hunter) Frank Ward spoke to the Society about his ongoing hunt for the unexplained? Well, he has now written of his experiences, including those in St. Marys. You will want to check with your book dealer for CLOSE BEHIND THEE, American Ghost Stories. Personal Accounts of Hauntings Across America. It was released in May of this year.

Opal Cannon, P.O. Box 206, Leesburg, GA 31763 has published DANIEL LAFAYETTE ROGERS, HIS ANCESTORS AND DESCENDANTS, containing related families of Walkers, Hardegrees, Bentleys and Kelleys. It is available from her for \$50 plus \$5 shipping.

The History Book Committee of the Brantley County Historical Society is calling for family information for its upcoming book. If you have roots in Brantley, you may write for a form at P.O. Box 998, Nahanta, GA 31553 or pick one up at the Bryan-Lang Library in Woodbine. Deadline is Dec. 10. If you want to place your order for the book, send a check for \$49 (incl. tax and postage) to the same address. Anticipated delivery is mid 1999.

The Huxford Genealogical Society announces the publication of Volume 10 PIONEERS OF WIREGRASS GEORGIA. The prepublication price is good until November 8; after that it will be \$50. The cost now is \$45, plus \$2.70 tax and \$3 postage.

### GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The September meeting of the Fall Lecture Series is "Saving Savannah's Architecture" by Mark McDonald of the Historic Savannah Foundation. This will be on the 17th at 7:00, Hodgson Hall.

### OVERDUE DUES --

Please Note -- a few of you still have red stars on your mailing label. This means simply that our label committee has no record of your paying dues in 1998. If there is a mistake, please let Treasurer Mildred Walko know. If it is not a mistake, then you may update your membership by sending dues to Mildred at her home address, 800 Margaret St., St. Marys, GA 31558. PLEASE do not send to the newsletter address; this delays processing.

• \$15 Family • \$8 Individual • \$2 student.

### THANKS TO--

Many, many thanks to Charles Thompson, who struggles with the label program, making the necessary changes that come regularly. Speaking of changes -- when you anticipate a change in address, if you will let us know at Box 398, then your newsletter won't be delayed.

Thanks, too, to Shirley Thompson and Bebe Williams for heading the refreshment committee for Celebration Twenty.

**UP-TO-DATE MEMBERS.** Those joining or renewing since May: P.B. Howell Family, Leesburg; Herbert Rowland Family; David Richardson Family (new), Ocala; Duncan Clinch Historical Society, Fernandina; Lamar Woodward Family; Kenneth Gay Family; H.E. Watson Family; Genevieve Silvear; Mary Bullard, South Dartmouth; Carolyn Anderson, Fernandina; Kay Johnson, Fernandina; Ruby Wood, Brentwood, TN; Carlton Bunkley; and Susan Gay-Peterson, Seattle.

### IN MEMORIAM

**HAROLD HEAGY  
PHIL JORY**