



Guale News

SEPTEMBER 2000

VOLUME 20, NO. 5

SEPTEMBER MEETING, TUESDAY 19TH ST. MARYS CITY LIBRARY, GUALE ROOM

7:00, Executive Session 6:30

BRYAN-LANG HISTORICAL ARCHIVIST DARREN HARPER TO SPEAK

All You've Wanted to Know about Bryan-Lang's Future and There's Been No One To Ask!

Darren has been aboard almost a year now and he hit the building up and running! You will hear about new research material available - new books - new microfilm on the way - new computers - new assistant! - and much more.

Darren wears two hats: archivist/librarian for Bryan-Lang and owner and president of an historic preservation consulting firm, The Brunswick Company. His knowledge of historic preservation has brought a new dimension to the services offered by Bryan-Lang and, we might add, a much needed service with so many ongoing preservation projects in this area.

He is a graduate of Savannah College of Art and Design and a resident of Brunswick, where he is active in many preservation organizations. Since heading the Bryan-Lang Library, he has worked to make the books and files more accessible to the many researchers who visit the library weekly.

Come hear about your historical library and learn that you, too, no matter your home territory, might find bits of your family in Woodbine.

LOOKING FORWARD TO A RAMBLE

Get your rambling shoes and be prepared for a fun-filled festive affair. Watch for your October newsletter.

PEN PORTRAITS NOW AVAILABLE

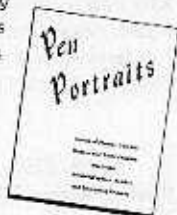
Bryan-Lang Historical Library is happy to announce that PEN PORTRAITS has been reprinted and is now on sale. It was originally published in 1969 by the Southeast Georgian after a series of biographies of Camden County women and their families had been printed as weekly features.

Among the families represented are: Bedell, several Langs, Proctor, Godley, Quarterman, Lowie, Wright, Peebles, Gowen, Mills, Lewis, Brown, McCarthy, Dean, and associated lines.

The original publication had been a project of the Woodbine Womans Club, headed by Mrs. L. O. Rogers. Now the Club has graciously granted permission to the Historical Library to reprint it, and Camden Printing has done a grand job, particularly with reproducing the old photographs.

This is a book for anyone with even a slight interest in Camden County's past. It is a good mix of family information with personal glimpses of earlier days.

Woodbine Womans Club members will be selling PEN PORTRAITS or you may get copies from the Bryan-Lang Historical Library. Once Upon A Bookseller will be selling them in St. Marys. Copies are \$15. To order, write Bryan-Lang Historical Library, PO Box 725, Woodbine, GA 31569. Add \$2 per copy for mailing.



OAK GROVE CEMETERY

High school student Daniel Freeman will be caring for the two lots in Oak Grove that the Historical Society is responsible for, the Hardee-Davis lot and the Bachlott-Hawkins. Trust funds were set up several years ago to care for them. Stanley Walko generously acted as caretaker until the city began proper care. He continued to monitor their condition. Now the city has been neglecting many of the lots and they need personal attention. Thank you, Daniel, for taking on his project.

BOOKS AND BOOKS

Guale Historical Society will be presenting a copy of the PALMETTO CEMETERY OF BRUNSWICK book to the St. Marys Library at the September meeting honoring Society president Rodney Sheffield, on behalf of Bill Hodges and the Satilla River Club, who made a contribution to the Society in honor of Rodney.

Ruth Cassidy Vicent and Sara Rogers Cassidy of Brunswick have just published this book about those buried in Palmetto Cemetery. This 809 page book lists burials through 1999 with maps and every name indexes of burials and family members.

This is not a mere catalog of cemetery listings, but a mammoth amount of family histories compiled from many sources. A number of the families buried there have Camden County connections, which makes it a true research tool for local researchers. Only 100 copies were printed and the majority went to libraries. You may see this at the Bryan-Lang Historical Library in Woodbine, at the St. Marys Library after mid-September, or other area libraries.

MARK ANTHONY COOPER: THE IRON MAN OF GEORGIA by descendant Mark Cooper Pope III and J. Donald McKee has just been released by Graphic Publishing Company. This biography of one of the state's leading men of the nineteenth century gives family details of Coopers, Harveys, Jordans, Branham's, Clarkes, Candler's, Popes and Terrells. Cooper's colorful life moved from Indian and Confederate warfare to political stunts in the Georgia General Assembly and US Congress. He was involved in agriculture, railroading, higher education, the development of Georgia's first railroads and the establishment of a major ironworks, as well as a flour mill.

You may order from Graphic Publishing Company, 655-A Lambert Dr., NE, Atlanta, GA 30324. \$35 plus \$4 postage.

The Etowah Foundation History Center and the Pope Foundation of Atlanta have presented Guale Historical Society with a copy. This will be placed in the Bryan-Lang Historical Library.

WOODBINE SCHOOLHOUSE RENOVATION

The former school standing just a block off U.S. 17 in Woodbine was abandoned as a school in 1992 when a new elementary school was constructed. This brick building that has served as a high school for the north end of the county, a county-wide high school and elementary school, was built in the late 1920s. Originally, it had ten classrooms, a lunch room and separate auditorium. More classrooms were added as an east wing as the school population grew, but those have been razed.

This county-owned building has been used for various community functions since its academic days ended, but it now faces abandonment unless certain renovations are done. Former students and teachers, among them Hoydt Drury, Katie Cooler and Bettie Cottle, have formed a committee for fundraising and overseeing the work. When work is completed, the building once again would be available for community activities.

The School Renovation Committee has received letters of support in this project from several preservation organizations, State Legislator Charlie Smith, and Congressman Jack Kingston. The committee is selling engraved memorial bricks which will be placed around the flag pole. If you would like to honor someone with a brick, call Hoydt at 912-576-8165 for a form, or you may pick one up at Bryan-Lang Library. The bricks are \$35 for one, \$30 for 2-5, or \$25 for 6 or more. The committee is also accepting donations for this worthwhile renovation program. Send donations to the Old School Renovation Project, PO Box 232, Woodbine, GA 31569.

CAMDEN COUNTY CEMETERY PROJECT

Coordinator and Guale Historical Society member Jasper Lang has announced that the following cemeteries have been cleared in Sheriff Smith's ongoing cemetery project: Holzendorf and Tompkins, both inactive; Homeward; Burnt Fort; Horse Stamp; Temple; Rising Daughter; Zion; Lawrwood and Colesburg.

As you remember, this clean-up program began in the spring with plans to eventually clean all cemeteries that do not receive regular care. Many of these cemeteries are old abandoned ones that have been lost to encroaching woods. Locating those has been a mammoth task undertaken by Mr. Lang, Rodney Sheffield and others. Mr. and Mrs. Lang then transferred the information to a map displaying 77 cemeteries. Others to be added. He presented a copy of his map to Bryan-Lang Library and Gule Historical Society.

FROM OTHER AREAS

If you have ancestors in Ware or surrounding counties, you might want to join the Okefenokee Historical & Genealogical Society in Waycross. Linda Angell has single-handedly gathered 2000 books, 250,000 cemetery listings and about the same number of marriages for her area. She publishes a quarterly Hoot Owl Express with family information and other genealogical items. You may subscribe, for \$25 per year, by writing her at 1617 Ball Street, Waycross, GA 31503. If you want to visit the library, call for an appointment at 912-283-6612 or e-mail ohgs@wayxcable.com.

Right now Linda is looking for a used microfilm reader at a reasonable price. If you can help, please contact her.

The Savannah Area Genealogical Association has announced a day-long seminar on Saturday, September 23, "Pioneers of Georgia." The four sessions will include 16 different classes, many of them related to Internet use for genealogy. Use of land grants, church records, cemetery resources and "Where to find hard-to-find ancestors" are also offered. Robert Davis, author of many genealogical books, Ken Thomas, noted genealogist, and Boe Williams, who has spearheaded publication of PIONEERS OF WIREGRASS GEORGIA will be among the instructors.

Cost for SAGA members is \$30, \$35 for non-members; and \$40 after September 15. Applications for the seminar and SAGA membership applications will be available with more details at the September meeting. If you want an application before then, call Eloise Thompson at 882-4587.

GREEN SPACE PROGRAM: AN OPINION

The Georgia House and Senate passed a bill offering state grant money to fund a program setting aside land as green space in the fastest growing counties. Camden County is among those qualifying for this program. Charlie Smith, Camden County's representative, said, "The primary purpose (of the bill) is to maintain or restore land to its natural state." This can be done by outright purchase or by the use of conservation easements.

Camden County must file a proposal of its plan with the state commission that will oversee the fund by November. Gule members Rodney Sheffield, Ann Stoddard and Eloise Thompson met with Frank Etheridge, Camden County's Planning and Building Director, pinpointing areas that are considered critical for preservation historically.

According to an article in the Tribune & Georgian, the commissioners are undecided about the implementation of this program. From the society members' conversation with Mr. Etheridge, he appears to have a handle on what needs to be done. Even though he is new to the area, he has already proven

that he knows how to gather the information needed, not merely from historically inclined folks but from members of other groups as well.

As more and more development takes place in our county, the Green Space Program seems to be the approach needed to assure future generations that they, too, can enjoy historical and passive recreational areas.

My opinion? The county leaders should support it and not let this plan become lost in a shuffle of paperwork and indecisiveness.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources has announced the nomination of the Greyfield Property on Cumberland Island to the National Register. Review hearings are scheduled, and decisions will be made after those.

The National Register is the official list of historic buildings, sites, objects and districts worthy of preservation. Four historic districts have already been named in Camden County: the older sections of Kingsland, St. Marys, and Woodbine, and a portion of Cumberland Island. Orange Hall and the McIntosh Sugarmill Ruins are stand-alone National Register structures. The Camden County Courthouse was a thematic nomination, meaning that it is included with other historic courthouses statewide.

QUERIES

Society member Clay Adams 18543 Bittern Avenue, Lutz, FL 33549-2741; ph. 813-962-1753; e-mail, cadams5357@aol.com has several queries. If you have information, please contact him.

Isham Peeples, who died in 1864, who has many Camden County descendants, married Mary Norton. Is she the same as Phoebe "Mary" Norton, born 1810 in Beaufort District, S.C., daughter of Robert Godfrey Norton, Sr. and Sarah Mosse?

Warren Randolph Peeples 1845-1864 had a child, Robert, by Mary Gale. Do you have any information about their marriage or any Gale family information?

Henry O'Neil of Spanish East Florida, later Nassau County, had a large family, among them Margaret, who married James King and who has numerous descendants in Camden County. He also had a son, William Chambers O'Neil (b 1772), who married Jane King, sister of James. He needs the link between this William C. and another William Chambers who was born in 1841 and died in 1909.

Since space is limited in this edition of Gule News, the Genealogy Corner has been omitted. Look for it next month.

MEMBERSHIPS

Family \$15	Individual \$8	Student \$1
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Send to Mildred Walko, 800 Margaret Street, St. Marys, GA 31558.

28TH ANNUAL HARRELL REUNION

Sat., Oct 7-Sun., Oct. 8. A Pig Pickin' is at Saturday afternoon at Bickley Chapel. For info, call Shirley Thompson.

Don't Forget: Gule Historical Society Meeting, Tuesday, September 19, 7:00