YESTERDAY



& TODAY Newsletter of the

LOWNDES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Chartered September, 1967

305 W. CENTRAL AVENUE VALDOSTA, GEORGIA 31603

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Summer 2017

VOL. XLVI

NOS. 4, 5, 6 & 7

The Georgia World War I Centennial Commission

To Honor, Educate and Commemorate

During 2016 the museum had a visit from Dr. Lamar Veatch who was researching for the Georgia WWI Commission. Dr. Veatch is retired Georgia State Librarian. Now as a Georgia WWI Commission Associate he is diligently gathering information on Georgia WWI soldiers, especially casualties, and Georgia events. He understood special items in our collection and made note to us concerning them

Our museum has been recognized by the Georgia World War I Centennial Commission with the following description on their website, "This museum contains a rare collection of WWI artifacts and displays, including the 'Trench Shotgun' invented by Valdostan William Eager." See page four for information on Eager and the trench shotgun.

On the Georgia WWI site you select "Monuments, Memorials and Historic Sites" and then the specific location. Our museum is one of ten listed as a Historical Site, with many listed for Monuments and Memorials.

The photos at right are from the museum archives; Capt. Frank Bird, M.D., Hobart Baird Edwards, Sr., Carl Ellis Dunaway, Capt. Jefferson Lamar Newbern and Otis Henry McDonald. We have their WWI information in the museum including Dr. Bird's patients surviving the pandemic influenza. In the museum archives, the Newbern Family Scrapbook on WWI and early American Legion activity is a valuable reference.

The museum WWI textiles can be viewed on our website by selecting Collections/ Textiles/ Military/ WWI. Similarly you can view the Red Cross textiles.



Capt. Frank Bird, M.D.



Capt. Carl Ellis Dunaway



Hobart Baird Edwards, Sr.



Capt. Jefferson Lamar Newbern

Museum Exhibit: 100 Years of the Red Cross

Featuring WWI and WWII Local Red Cross Textiles

Ongoing exhibit in the Lower Gallery

World War I brought the first Red Cross Chapter To Lowndes County in 1917

At right: A.R.C. patch sewn onto the cuff of a WWI era Canteen dress on display in the Exhibit.

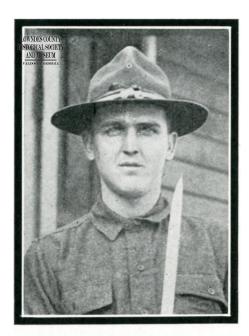




Lt. Col. Otis Henry McDonald

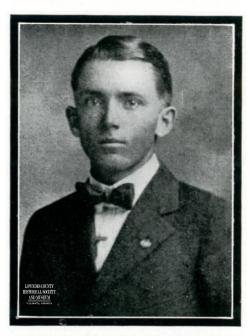
They are a Part of our Freedom

Some Local WWI Deaths: Killed in Action, Otranto Disaster, Disease



PRIVATE JOE B. COPPAGE Hahira, Ga.

Private Coppage entered the service December 19th, 1917. Was attached to Company "M," 325th Infantry, 82nd Division, with which unit he embarked for over-sea service June 1st, 1918. Private Coppage was killed by a machine gun bullet while serving in the Argonne Forest, October 12th, 1918.



These photographs and WWI service records are taken from the *Georgia State Memorial Book*, published in 1921. A copy is housed at the museum.



PVT. JOHN GUY COPPAGE Hahira, Ga.

Private Coppage entered the service July 19th, 1918. Was attached to September Automatic Replacement Draft, Coast Artillery Corps, with which unit he embarked for over-seas the latter part of September, 1918. Was drowned when the ill-fated transport "Otranto" was sunk off the Scottish Coast in a collision, October 6th, 1918.

PRIVATE WM. JACKSON ROUNDTREE

Hahira, Ga.

Private Roundtree entered the service September 5th, 1918. Received military training in local camps, and was attached to Company "G," 161st Infantry, 41st Division, with which unit he embarked for over-sea service October 27th, 1918. Contracted pneumonia, resulting in his death at Thenay, France, December 10th, 1918.

The *National Memorial* book lists additional local WWI deaths with three having small photographs. The museum is fortunate to have this book.

The museum has no known photos of local African Americans who died in WWI but we did find a military service death record on Howard T. Forrest, 303 North Street, via Ancestry.com.

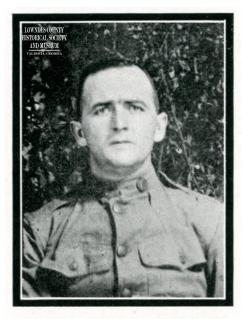
Forrest was inducted at Valdosta on March 28, 1918 with his place of birth, Valdosta, Ga., and his age 22 4/12s years. The record lists time at Fort Gordon and that he served overseas from June 30, 1918 to his death September 23, 1918, of wounds received in action. The engagement is listed Minancourt. which we find as Minaucourt-le-Mesnil -les-Hurlus near la Butte de Mesnil.

His death was reported to his uncle, Will W. Forrest of Valdosta who resided at 302 North Street.



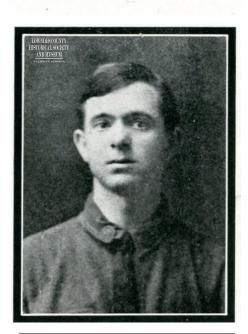
PVT. WILLIAM C. STALVEY Hahira, Ga.

Private Stalvey entered the service July 16th, 1918, and was sent to Camp Greenleaf, Georgia, for training. Was attached to Motor Company No. 9. Private Stalvey had been in camp about three months when he contracted pneumonia, which resulted in his death there October 18th, 1918.



PRIVATE COLLIE O. MOORE Naylor, Ga.

Private Moore entered the service July 15th, 1918, and was sent to Camp Greenleaf, Georgia, for training. Was attached to Motor Company No. 8. Private Moore had been in camp only about three months when he contracted pneumonia, which resulted in his death there, October 14th, 1918.



The original "Spirit of the American Doughboy" statue is nearby in Nashville, Ga. Hundreds are seen nationally. Ordered in 1920, it toured coming to Nashville in late 1921. It was not unveiled until paid for in late 1923.



PVT. GORDON AUGUSTUS SMITH

Valdosta, Ga.

Private Smith entered the service April 3rd, 1918. Attached to Company "M," 327th Infantry, 82nd Division, he embarked for over-sea service April 31st, 1918. Private Smith was engaged in active service when killed by a machine gun bullet in the Argonne Forest, in October, 1918.



Valdosta, Ga.

After receiving military training in local camps, Private Chambers embarked for oversea service. He was attached to Company "C," 18th Machine Gun Battalion, 54th Infantry. Contracted pneumonia in France, which resulted in his death, November 25th, 1918.

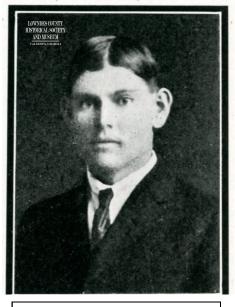
PVT. DAVID CARY NEWSOM Valdosta, Ga.

Private Newsom entered the service July 16th, 1918. He was attached to the Medical Detachment, United States General Hospital No. 19, Oteen, North Carolina. Private Newsom contracted tuberculosis, which resulted in his death at this hospital September 4th, 1919.



LIEUT. WILBUR OGLESBY Valdosta, Ga.

Lieutenant Oglesby entered the service September 19th, 1917, at Camp Gordon, Ga., where he was attached to the Engineers Corps. Later transferred to Camp Wheeler, Ga., then to Rockford, Ill. Embarked for over-seas in January, 1918, attached to the 19th Engineers Transportation Corps, 86th Division, A. E. F. Died of pneumonia in Hospital No. 28, France, October 30, 1918.



WWI provided cause for the establishment of the American Legion. In Georgia, Valdosta became Post #13 with and organizational meeting in October 1919 and establishment meeting in 1920.

WWI: Eager's Trench Shot Gun A Success



William G. Eager, Sr.

Visitors to our museum are often amazed at the national and international events that can be told through our local history. A prime example of this is W. G. Eager's adaptation of the shotgun for use in WWI trench warfare.

With the 100th year commemoration of WWI it was certainly time for us to revisit William G. Eager's significant contribution to Allied success in WWI, the Trench Shot Gun. So much more information can now be gathered that this article is somewhat a timeline that can potentially serves as a research guide.

Know that William G. Eager, Sr., did not patent or seek personal gain for his invention. He was a patriot and the adaptation of the gun was for American and Allied benefit.

October 19, 1917, Eager submits his report to the General Staff of the US Army. It was referred to the Commanding General, Paris, France. (The museum has a copy of his paper.)

November 5, 1917, Gen. Pershing approves. The government required that the development of this weapon remain secret. (The museum has gun tactical and other articles.)

The guns get distributed to soldiers in France and become public knowledge in late April and early May 1918. The *New York Sun* ran an extensive article that was cited by many newspapers. (At the museum, the Eager file and the Newbern scrapbook include this article.)

By September 1918, and reported into October 1918, the Germans register a formal objection to the use of the trench shot gun. "Germany has curtly informed the United States that any American taken prisoner who has a shotgun or shotgun ammunition on his person will forfeit his life." "The trench gun does an irreparable amount of damage to the German cause." The Germans were using poisonous gas and flamethrowers.

Late in October 1918, via news wire services, newspapers nationwide began running their versions of the headline and article *below*, it taken from the *El Paso Herald Post*.

Also in October 1918, from the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, "About everything else, it is said, our short-barreled shotguns hurt the Huns' feelings the worst, but at that, we didn't issue those cute little sprayers to amuse him."

Treaty ends hostilities - Armistice Day November 11, 1918.

William G. Eager, Sr., & the Valdosta High Class of 1967

The museum was an opportunity visit for the VHS Class of 1967 50th year reunion a few weeks ago. See pages 6, 7 and 9 in this newsletter.

Three grandchildren of W. G. Eager, Sr., identify with this class.

Josie Eager Beadle, Atlanta, GA, daughter of W. G. Eager, Jr.; Karen Eager, Dunwoody, GA, daughter of Eugene M. Eager; and

Hartman (Hoppy) Eager, Dahlonega, GA, son of Hartman Eager.

Trench Shot Gun America's Best Contribution To War

An Improvement on the Short Barrel Gun That Did Yeoman Service in the Bad Lands; Germans Fear Shotguns More Than All Allied Weapons of Warfare; Hit Hand Grenades In Air.

THE trench shotgun is America's greatest contribution to the war.

Through the expert handling of the trench shotgun the Germans learned that the Yanks were coming.

At the first taste of the pellets the Huns began to whine and then to write notes calling us "barbarians." Germany, too!

Quite naturally a lot of people wanted to know something about the trench gun. Quite a number of writers have written a lot about the gun.

We'll add to the lot and try to give every bit of information about the shotgun that is worthy of publication.

Liberty Loan Drives Supported the War Effort

Pickelhaube Prizes

The Pickelhaube was the spiked elaborate helmet used by German armies beginning in 1842. Drawings with the spiked helmet were used in propaganda cartoons by the Allies during WWI. When it became evident that the Pickelhaube was not effective for protection in trench warfare the Germans began changing to a new steel helmet the Stahlhelm. The Pickelhaube continued in use with six versions shown as Liberty Loan prizes in the US. The infantry model seems to have been the most common by far.

The Germans had uniforms and helmets stored for their Victory March into Paris. After the German defeat over 85,000 Pickelhaube helmets came to the United States and were widely distributed for Victory Loan Drive functions. One newspaper headline read:

"The Gorgeous Headpieces Intended by Germans for Grand Entry Into Paris."

What Got in Their Way was the American Doughboy "With these helmets a card was sent reading as follows:

'This German helmet is one of many thousands taken by American troops in Meitz, Coblenz and other Rhine cities. The helmets, together with very handsome uniforms, were carefully stored in the Rhine cities, all ready to be dispatched on short notice to the German army at the front the moment they would be needed for the triumphant march into Paris. It was the plan of the Germans to discard their battle-worn uniforms and helmets at the gates of Paris and enter the French capital resplendent in New uniforms and those gorgeous helmets. They had planned a great triumphant entry into the city as lords of creation, but something got in their way and the party was never pulled off. What got in their way was the American doughboy.'"

Helmet Winners In Valdosta

The woman and man with most Victory Loan Day sales. "A German helmet was offered to the lady making the largest sales during the closing day, and this prize was won by Mrs. T. A. Baker whose sales totaled \$16,550. Miss Margaret Staten was a close second with about \$200 less sales and an effort will be made for her. These helmets are perfectly new, having been captured in German stores and are greatly valued by all who won them." "As the man making the largest sales, Mr. W. L. Holder won the German full dress helmet in the Victory Loan Drive."

Where are the Valdosta Helmets?

Note: The museum would very much like to photograph one or both of these helmets in detail. If they continue with Baker or Holder descendants please contact the museum then Textiles Curator Amy Brown can photograph and record information. Photos of the winners are also desired.

The History of Lowndes County Georgia, 1825-1941, by the General James Jackson Chapter NSDAR gives thorough coverage of local activity during WWI, then, in 1941, called The World War as being previous to WWII. Dates of Liberty Loan Drives:

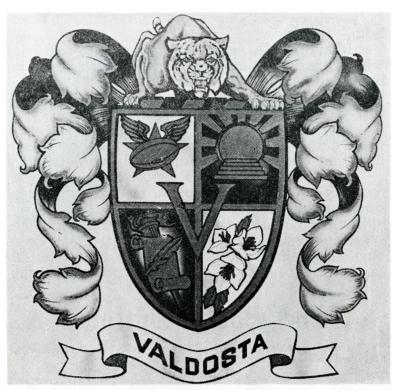
First Liberty LoanMay 14 to June 15, 1917
Second Liberty Loan......October 1 to October 27, 1917
Third Liberty Loan......April 6 to May 4, 1918
Fourth Liberty Loan.....September 28 to October 19, 1918
Fifth or Victory......April 21 to May 10, 1919

Leading a Liberty Loan Parade



Above: Clyde McKey (West) (White),1900-1975, led the Third Liberty Loan Drive parade as Joan of Arc. The photo, by Blackburn, was undated until snapshots of the same event came to the museum stating it in 1918 from the Third Liberty Loan parade. A companion photo has her standing beside the horse. First Baptist Church is in the background. Note that horse is standing partially on paved W. Central Avenue and the hind legs on unpaved N. Toombs Street. Clyde McKey was the last born full first-cousin to legendary Doc Holliday, 1851-1887, and her father T.S. McKey, 1842-1934, oversaw the construction of the 1905 Lowndes County Courthouse as county commission chairman.

VHS Class of 1967 50th Year Reunion Presented School Its Coat-of-Arms in Fall of 1966



Coat Of Arms Presented

Valdosta High School now has a complete coat-of-arms which was presented by the Senior Class in chapel on Friday, November 18, and was designed by a committee of VHS students and faculty. The shield which will be used as an official seal on such items as graduation invitations, contains symbols representing the aspects and goals of Valdosta High School.

The crest of the shield is a left quarter pictures a sunburst Wildcat, the VHS mascot. The and stairs which represent climbarms is a quartered shield with a ing the stairs of life toward the centered V standing for VHS (or ultimate goal. victory??).

The torch, scroll, and quill of The upper right quarter contains a winged football and star symbolizing athletics. The upper Valdosta, the Azalea City.

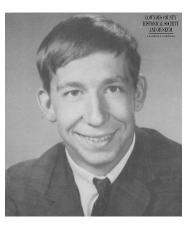
The article at left is taken from the November 30, 1966 issue of the **Dosta Outlook**. A copy of same is in the museum archives. Mrs. Marsha Quarterman was the art teacher at VHS and VJHS that year. It took only a short period of time before this coat-ofarms became an enduring symbol of VHS.

We have no record at the museum of which students or faculty participated in the design development. We are hopeful that someone can supply this information in writing via the museum email listed on page 10.

Operation Strobo

At right: Ronald Strobo 1967 Senior Yearbook Portrait

> Vietnam War Casualty February 23, 1969



Having graduated in 1967, few in Ronald Strobo's class were aware of a project the VHS Student Council named Operation Strobo. In the Fall of 1968 Strobo had VHS contacted for a Christmas in Vietnam. Working at his Headquarters Battery in Dau Tieng were 24 Vietnamese men and 46 Vietnamese women, that represented 65 families with 236 children. The appeal was for all types of commodities.

The school immediately went to work for Strobo, with all remembering the spirit he gave the school as a football player and State Championships. Below: The headline from the Dosta Outlook, issue December 20, 1968, reveals the outcome of the drive. In late February 1969, when principal Charles Greene announced Strobo's death over the intercom, an encompassing sadness gripped the school for days.

Operation Strobo' Deemed Big Success

Class of 1967 at the Museum Local History Contributors



Left: Sharon Colyer Carter, Valdosta, discovered family history during her visit to the museum. Two scrapbook volumes of weddings planned by Marie Harris Johnson are housed at the museum. These date from the very late 1940s to the very early 1970s. Sharon was delighted to find a newspaper article on her parents wedding that she had never seen. It was the sixth among hundreds of weddings in the Johnson scrapbooks. Left Below: While at the museum Ida Little, Hawthorne, FL, helped solve the mystery of photographs of homes from a promotional brochure published circa 1940. One was her parents' home (Dr. Alex Little) at the corner of Country Club Road and Country Club Drive before the second story was added. The other was the Wainer home next door which had confused the museum because of the many cows in the front yard. Below: The museum had specifically asked Judy Sigrid Grondahl Kingsbury of Maryland to come by for photographs. President George W. Bush got his wings at Moody and during this time Sigrid and the future president dated, She was then a VSC cheerleader, One of the fun stories she told was being at Moody when Bush was being flown to Washington, D.C. to escort one of the Nixon daughters to a function.

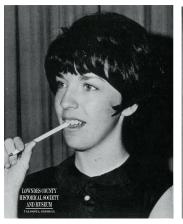




Below: A footnote in Local History VHS 1967 Senior Year Class Officers In local history we more and more realize that if we don't write it down we most likely won't remember. The Fall of 1966 was the last year class officers were elected in a plurality method, not running for a specific office. Classes met in assembly and nominated maybe 12 to 20 people for class officer. Each person voted for four people with the one receiving the most votes being President, 2nd the Vice President; 3rd the Secretary and 4th the Treasurer. With this method the Class of 1967 Junior year officer were P-Susie Shingler; VP-Jody Slocum; S– Gretchen McCoy; and T–Laura Cole. The Sophomore year officers were P–Sandy Hicks; VP– Gretchen McCoy; S– Rhett Dawson; and T-Jody Slocum. McCoy was Student Council President her Senior year. One suggestion as to the election method change was that guys of that era were not so pleased that plurality voting sometimes slotted them into the office of class secretary.









Laura Cole (Clarke) President; Susie Shingler, Vice-President; Ree Stark (Dausman) Secretary; Sis Watson (Jarrard) Treasurer



MEMORIALS



Tomie Jean Roberts Blanton

Jerry N. Byrd Donald O. Davis Patsy T. Giles Mary D. Gray Lilla Kate Hart Paul B. 'Bud' Hatcher, Jr. J. Edward Willis

Virginia 'Ginna' Copeland Drumheller

by Bobby Snow Boal Atlanta, GA Mr. and Mrs. Joe Glenn Smith

Alexander M. 'Buddy' Culbreth

Jerry N. Byrd Mr. and Mrs. Wade H. Coleman Highlands, NC Donald O. Davis Patsy T. Giles Mary D. Gray

Richard A. Flynt

J. Edward Willis

Judge George Henry Hart, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Glenn Smith

Emory G. Hatcher

Denver, CO by Tommy and Frances Hatcher and Family Paul B. 'Bud' Hatcher, Jr. and Family Brenda Hatcher Shelley and Family

Mike G. Hill

Mary D. Gray

Judith Starling Hollis

The Fred DeLoach, Jr., Family Mary D. Gray

Myrtis Avera Howell

Bobby Snow Boal Atlanta, GA

Ruth Wirick Johnson Jennings

Monroe, GA by Dr. and Mrs. William W. Oliver, Jr. Macon, GA

Ruth Chamberlain Kahler

J. Edward Wills

Lilla 'Sis' West May

by Donald O. Davis Patsy Giles Beulah Exum Hennly

Seab Miller

J. Edward Willis

Franklin Stuart Mullis, III

Mr. and Mrs. Wade H. Coleman Highlands, NC Mary D. Gray Paul B. 'Bud' Hatcher, Jr. James C. and Mary Young Manning J. Edward Willis

Donald Eugene 'Nic' Nichols, Jr.

Mary D. Gray

Marjorie Doreen Carter Officer

by J. Edward Willis

Col. Clarence S. Parker

Beulah Exum Hennly J. Edward Willis

Otis Lane Renfroe

by J. Edward Willis

Gloria Dalton Sorenson

Bobby Snow Boal Atlanta, GA

Lane Winston Smith

Mr. and Mrs. Wade H. Coleman Highlands, NC J. David and Esther P. Lifsey Atlanta, GA Dr. and Mrs. William W. Oliver Macon. GA Lota B. Smith

William Joseph 'Joe' Wetherington

J. Edward Wills

John & Jackie N. Wiggins

Bobby Snow Boal Atlanta, GA

Valdosta High School Class of 1967

On the Occasion of their 50th Year Reunion **In Memory of Deceased Classmates**

In the Memorial Program: Fred Bennett, Gary Bentley. Charlie Bob Bridges, Raymond Bryant, Bo Carroll, Jerry Carter, Sheila Carter, Wilma Jean Carter, Faye Cherry, Don Corbett, Richard Everitt, John Faglie, Joanna Hoyle, Ruth Hunzeker, Jim Johnston, Elsie Lewis, Dee Marshall, Bill Martin, David Martin, Warren McGhin, Mac McRae, Bernadette Mercer, Linda Mullis, Tex Mullis, Jimmy Patten, Barbara Pearlman, Grover Rhodes, Kitty Rider, Shelby Roberts, Wanda Rowe, Carol Shaw, Terry Stewart, Ronald Strobo, Mike Strom, Judy Taylor, Roger Underwood, Ronnie Wayne, Richard Westerberg, Janice Wisenbaker.

2017 New & Renewal Memberships

(continued from previous newsletters)
Place of residence listed for those
Outside of Lowndes County

The Historical Society Trustees and Museum Staff greatly appreciate your memberships as they affirm our place as an important cultural entity in Lowndes County and help us to fulfill our mission—

To collect, preserve and present the history of Lowndes County

Bill and Jennifer S. Altman
Jerry and Betty Rose Becton
Bobby Snow Boal
Atlanta, GA
Joseph Clem Brannen, DDS
Atlanta, GA
Millie J. Chitwood
Anthony and Vivian Cody
Buddy and Sharon Coleman

Jan Shelton Danis
Bethesda, MD
Mr. and Mrs. James F. DeVane, Jr.
Mandeville, LA
Dr. & Mrs. Stephen W. Edmondson
Clayton, GA
William O. Fletcher
Jeff Fulp
Erco Worldwide

Martha Norwood Gibson Dixie Ray Haggard, Ph.D. Jane F. Hearn Bill Herring Glen and Mary Holcombe Orangs Park, FL

Gail Connell Johnson
Lawrenceville, GA
Ida Little
Hawthorne, FL
Gretchen Smith Mui
Bethesda, MD
Rebecca Anne Odom
(Continued next column)

VHS 1967 Donates

At right VHS Class of 1967 members Mary Young Smotherman Manning and Charlotte Cunningham Ford present a class reunion booklet to Donald Davis museum Executive Director for the archives.

Mary Young, a former president of the Lowndes County Historical Society, also presented a check from the class in memory of their deceased classmates.

Charlotte's mother, Lois Wiley Cunningham, was the Music teacher for VHS and VJHS, At age 98 she performed at the Grand Old Opry in Nashville, TN, playing on piano *How Great Thou Art*. The performance is popular on YouTube with 8 million hits. Age 99 at the time of this reunion, this former faculty member played the same hymn at the Saturday night function.. In June of this year at her well-attended 100th birthday celebration Lois Cunningham performed "Georgia on My Mind."

The booklet *at right*, with individuals, supplying information, was prepared and published by Terry Godfrey, *photo right below*. He and his wife Pam live in Gray (Macon) GA and the family business is MailSortMacon. In Valdosta, Terry's father was long serving pastor of Bemiss Road Baptist Church.

The booklet was dedicated to Ruthie Thomas Moss, Canton, GA, recognizing her decades of effort on behalf of her class. Generations remember her parents, father L.P. 'Buck' Thomas, VJHS and elementary principal, and mother Edna Thomas, VHS office secretary.

Charlene B. Scholey

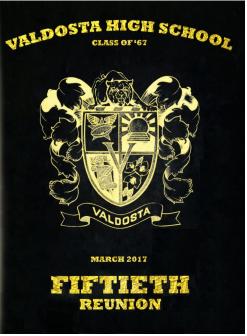
Menifee, CA

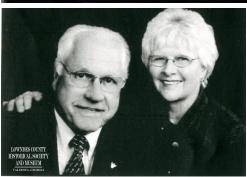
Don and Dee Dee D. Stanley
Susan Wade Stewart

Wesley and Julie S. Street

Buddy and Analease Walker
Gloria Newsome Warren







2017 Membership Application, Lowndes County Historical Society, P.O. Box 56, Valdosta, GA 31603	
Name	Membership Category
Address	Individual \$25.
Phone	Family 30
Email	Business 25/50 Contributing 100
	Patron 250

MUSEUM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Continuing Exhibit	100 Years of the Red Cross
July 13 & 27	Valdosta D.A.R.E. Groups at the Museum
July 31	Langdale Place at the Museum
August 9	Trustees Executive Committee Meeting
•	Closed for Labor Day Weekend

Officers and Executive Committee

President, Patsy Giles; 1st Vice President, T. Davy Shelton; 2nd Vice President, Martha N. Gibson; Secretary, Joseph Tomberlin; Treasurer, John Bennett; Past President, Ex officio, Julie Smith; Anita Shelton

Lowndes County Historical Society & Museum

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YESTERDAY & TODAY

Newsletter of **Lowndes County Historical Society**

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> Adam Doughty Drew Johnson Social Media

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