YESTERDAY



& TODAY Newsletter of the

LOWNDES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Chartered September, 1967

305 W. CENTRAL AVENUE VALDOSTA, GEORGIA 31603

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April, May, June 2012

VOL. XLI

NOS. 4, 5 & 6

Early Commerce of Cars

With the Valdosta/Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce celebrating their 100th Anniversary we hoped to include an article on business of that era in our newsletter. A recently donated promotional paper from 1916 provided such information.

From a special edition of "The Traveling Man" we have an interesting record of early automobiles available in Valdosta. We learned that Valdosta had seven businesses that offered twelve different brands of automobiles. We must remember that many buggies and wagons continued to be sold at this time.

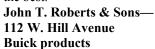
Some additional information and photographs have been added to the original article that begins below. We have also added business addresses from the 1917-18 City Directory.

Valdosta leading market in South Georgia for automobiles

Numbers of the best makes sold here in large quantities

"Valdosta has the reputation of giving the people what they want in every line and the automobile business is no exception for here can be found many of the popular makes of cars and a fine

range of prices from the cheapest to the best.



John T. Roberts and Sons, who have been identified with the vehicle business of Valdosta for a number of years, were among the first firms to take up the handling of automobiles in the city.

John T. Roberts, who has identified himself with most of the progressive movements of the city, is the head of the firm, but Messrs.

W. L. and J.Y. Roberts are the active members of the firm. These young business men are showing qualities of salesmanship in the number of motor cars disposed of.

The firm handles the Buick, which is perhaps the most popular car in the territory.

Continued on Page 2

About "The Traveling Man"

This particular edition of "The Traveling Man," the banner head below, was donated to the museum in June 2011 by the late Camille C. Peeples. She passed away a few months later in January 2012. It had been preserved through the family of her late husband, Henry W. "Billy" Peeples, Jr. It is a 52 page document with several articles on businesses, agriculture, fire and police departments, and local governments with many photographs of individuals.

This is the only copy of this publication we have ever seen. It was published by Southern Stationery and Printing Co. when J. J. Newman and W. H. Oliver owned the business, and, it not being from a standard newspaper, is not on microfilm. We have used some of its photos in collecting images of the 100 years of Chamber of Commerce presidents and chairmen.

The museum is most thankful to Camille Peeples, who when suffering from illness, came to the museum, climbed the stairs, not using the elevator, and donated this surviving unique document for our archives.



At Left:
A snapshot
of the late
Mr. and Mrs. Henry
W. Peeples, Jr.,
Billy and Camille,
when they
were traveling.

NO.



III.

VOL.

SPECIAL GEORGIA - FLORIDA FAIR EDITION THE TRAVELING WAN Published Weekly in the interest of the Business Man.

VALDOSTA, GA., Oct. 21, 1916.

In addition to motor cars, this firm carries the largest stock of tires in South Georgia, and one of the most complete stocks of accessories. Automobiles and accessories is a business and not a side line with this progressive firm.

J.A. Dasher and Co.—213 W. Hill Avenue Studebaker, Haynes, and Maxwell products

J.A. Dasher and Co., are among the latest entries into the automobiles business. J.A. Dasher, the head of the firm has not been in the mercantile game for some time, but is known far and wide as the man who put Valdosta on the map as a vehicle center. Valdosta has remained on the map and now he is going to put the Studebaker, Haynes and Maxwell automobiles on the Valdosta map. Associated with Mr. Dasher as sales manager is J. Alex Campbell, who also is a graduate from the buggy and wagon business

Note: The Maxwell was produced from 1904 to 1925 and merged into the Chrysler. The car was remembered for years thence as comedian Jack Benny often referred to his Maxwell automobile.

The Valdosta Garage Co.—118 W. Hill Avenue Ford products

The Valdosta Garage Co., which handles the Fords exclusively started in business in 1910 and incorporated in 1912 with J.G. Cranford as president and W.C. Lane as general manager.

J.C. Howell is with the company as salesman.

This company contracted for 265 Fords for 1915-16 and 350 for the season of 1916-17. For the last season, which commenced in August, they have delivered 43 new cars and have orders on file for 25 more which they have been unable to secure.



J.D. Cranford

This firm carries the largest stock of Ford parts in South Georgia and operates a first-class general repair and service station under the management of W.G. Carey for Fords only.

C.R. Ashley—115 S. Ashley Street Grant, Paige, and Briscoe products

Mr. C.R. Ashley, who has been for a long time identified with the business of the city has with the assistance of Mr. J.D. Ashley recently taken on the sale of the Grant, Paige, and Briscoe cars.



At left
James D.
Ashley, a former
Mayor of Valdosta
At right
Cornelius R.
Ashley



Briggs Hardware Co.—128 N. Patterson Street Chalmers products

This firm are distributors in this territory for the Chalmers automobiles. In speaking of the Chalmers one thinks naturally of that which is almost perfect in the way of motor cars. It has all the

comforts that can be placed in an automobile and at the same time its mechanical equipment is such that make it a car in a class by itself. In addition to this they have a service station on their Ashley street front, and handle all kinds of accessories, making a specialty of Goodrich tires.

Peeples Hardware Co.—108 N. Ashley Street Overland products

The Peeples Hardware Co., in addition to their large hardware business, also handle the Overland car and have sold a number of these popular cars. In addition to this they are sale distributors of the Chas. H. Brown Paint Co., and have done much to establish the "Statesman" brand in this market. W.D. Peeples, the president of this company, is mayor pro tem of the city of Valdosta. Mr. Dent Peeples, who was formerly with the Exchange Bank, resigned some time ago to take charge of the company and the success that is fast coming to the young company is due in large measure to his sterling qualities.



W.D. Peeples

The Valdosta Motor Co.—112 W. Central Avenue Reo and Oakland products

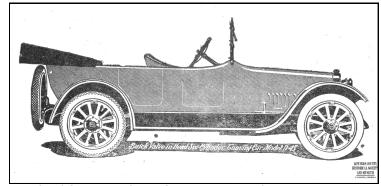
The Valdosta Motor Co., of which Mr. George W. Varn is president and W.L. Varn, manager, handles Reo and Oakland mo-

tor cars, both whole sale and retail, and distribute more cars than any concern in South Georgia. Mr. George W. Varn being interested in many other enterprises of the city leaves the automobile business to W.L. Varn, who has proved his mettle in the distribution of so many cars. In addition to the cars named above this company carries a large stock of Miller tires and also a nobby line of robes and gloves."



Note: The photo of W. L. (Lester) Varn,

above, is from the 1914 Valdosta High yearbook, in which he already is listed as a dealer in automobiles and hopes "to get an electric machine for working Algebra." At 18 he ran a car dealership, at 21 became a director of Citizens Bank, and at 22 moved to Jacksonville, FL and formed Reo Varn Motors Co. He later operated dealerships in Miami, Tampa and Savannah. He became one of the country's pioneers in the automobile installment finance business, opening his own independent company Varn Motors Finance Company. His grandson, George W. Varn, Jr. of Jacksonville, FL, has been a member of the Lowndes County Historical Society for several years.



Buick ad for J.T. Roberts from 1916 Traveling Man mag-

Chasing the Chamber



Don Nichols, CofC head 1955



M.F. Ellinor, CofC head 1942



Ellinor Motor Company 1937, now H. B. Anderson location



With growth and I-75, vehicular crossings over rail tracks increased. With few rail guards then, and more accidents, the CofC began Operation Lifesaver. Officer J. T. Copeland is shown assisting with the project.

The museum has been busy with many projects, one of which is preparing an exhibit on 100 years of the Chamber of Commerce. The CofC had prepared a year by year review of highlights that were printed in a 1983 special edition in the *Valdosta Daily Times*, and in later years updates. This information was used in preparing the base of a "Detail Exhibit" on the Chamber.

Information is much easier to find on later years as the CofC began publishing their newsletter *Progress* in the mid 1950s, however, photos rare until the mid '60s. One problem we wanted to solve was that there were no photographs of many early presidents or board chairmen. Thus we began Chasing the Chamber, with several leads from Johnny B. Lastinger.

The photograph of Don Nichols, far left, and other CofC items, were sent to us from Montana by his son Jim, the oldest of six boys. Jim told that his father was very busy and returning to his car after the dinner where he was installed as CofC head, he had left the motor running the entire time. Fred Ellinor, son of M.F., was found in Flagler Beach, FL. They moved from Valdosta in the 1940s. He not only gladly sent the photo of his father, but also a dozen snapshots of the Ellinor Motor Company opening in 1937. Langdale Ford bought Ellinor in the 1960s.



Above: Adam Doughy and Drew Johnson prepare CofC exhibit



The 1959 photo above shows Emerson Bell standing and Chamber Executive Tot Amon seated beside. "Values in Valdosta" was a CofC campaign to coordinate merchant discounting with the opening of the tobacco markets in Lowndes

VHS 1962 and 1967 Reunions

On Saturday morning, March 24, the museum had visitors from the Valdosta High School classes of 1962 and 1967. They were gathered for their respective 50th and 45th class year reunions. Both offered the museum as an option on their agendas. Kay Powell,VHS'62, of Atlanta, visited the museum several times gathering her class's information. Mary Young Smotherman Manning, VHS '67, who spearheaded their reunion is a former Lowndes County Historical Society president and familiar with museum archive holdings. Pertinent items were pulled from our archives so that the groups could quickly view as much as possible.

While talking and looking in yearbooks Mary Young Manning began to make note of how many people in her class had an older sibling in the Class of 1962. Mary Young said that being the eldest of five children she knew many class associations of those younger than her, but was unaware and surprised with the two classes sibling connections.

In the panel of photos at right: the 1962 sibling is in the left column with the 1967 on the right. Shown are: the late Sandra Babcock Miller and David Babcock, Valdosta,; Al Brass, Mableton, and Robert Brass, Newnan; Randie DeCoudres Miller, Laguna Hills, CA, and Bill DeCoudres, Valdosta; Jeanne Hoyle, Columbia, CA, and Joanna Hoyle, North Hollywood, CA; Ruby Luke Grumet, Ashburn, VA, and Tommy Luke, Naples, FL; and Gary Minchew and Janet Minchew, Valdosta.

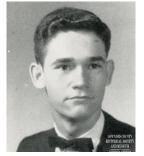
Both classes were glad to have former faculty member Betty Googe at their respective reunions. Coach Bill Bennett attended a '62 function and Betty Bazemore attended a '67 function.





At left: In the photo are 1962 members: Suzanne Saunders Hagen, Villa Rica, GA; Kay Potts Bridges of Jasper, GA; Saundra Sapp Hayner of Fernandina Beach, FL; Kay's husband John, VHS '61; and Mary Laura Deakins Norman, Valdosta. Suzanne is married to Andrew Hagen, VHS '61, whose mother Vera Hagen was one of the three founders of the Lowndes County Historical Society. She brought her father to the museum and even some from the Class of '67 remembered him as their Sunday School teacher at Lee Street Baptist.

Center left: are Class of '67 Sharon Colver members, Carter, Mary Young Manning and Mike Talbot, all of Valdosta.





'62 whose siblings grew up with the Class of '67, however did not graduate from VHS. Sister to Mike Giles is Pat Giles Chitty, both of Valdosta. Brother to Peggy Winston McDonald is Rick Winston of Leesburg. Peggy was a rare three year graduate of VHS, so she left in 1961. She lives in St. Joseph, MO and awaits the University of Missouri's first SEC football game which will be versus UGA.

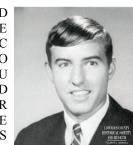
At left are two more of the Class of

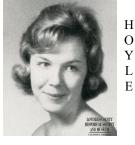








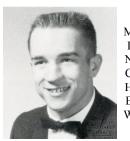














GILES

WINSTON



April, May, June 2012

Above: Cart before 1977 at museum when on N. Patterson Below: Julian Copeland with restored log cart



Julian Copeland Restores Log Transport Cart for the Museum

The historic wooden log cart, which for many years graced the front yard as a welcoming symbol for visitors, has been curiously absent from the grounds of the museum. But there is a good reason for this.

In 2009, Julian Copeland received the museum's wooden log cart with the intention of restoring it to its original condition. Due to the cart's age, much of the wood had become very brittle and broken. Mr. Copeland's goal was to replace all of this wood, essentially reconstructing the cart in the same way that it would have been originally built. This was no small project. The wheels of the cart use what is called an Archibald hub that, although able to support a lot of weight, must be built with great precision. In fact, this type of hub was once used by the military but replaced because of the difficulty of building them and the expertise it required. There are not many people today that still practice this type of wheel building. Perchance, Carol Copeland, Julian's wife, has family in Ohio. On a family visit they found in nearby Baltic, Ohio an Amish wheelwright, Marvin Stutzman, who could rebuild the wheels. The wheels were completed in 2011 and brought back to Valdosta by the Copelands. All was done at no charge to the museum.

The rest of the wood for the frame of the cart was donated by Ray Coulding of Quality Log and Lumber of Lake Park. Only one original piece of wood is retained for the cart, and that is the stand that holds the tongue off of the ground. The metal is also original.

In addition to his hard work on the log cart, Julian Copeland is very involved with the new Dasher Historical Society. We are very grateful for what he has accomplished, in addition to the fantastic work of Marvin Stutzman and the contributions of Ray Coulding of Quality Log and Lumber.

Reunions often bring donations, artifacts and distant society members to the museum



At left: Members of the VHS Class of 1967 Lynn Moran Williams of Valdosta and Gretchen McCoy Young of Atlanta. Gretchen is long time member of the Lowndes County Historical Society. Lynn has visited the museum with her grandchildren before. Below right: VHS Class of 1962 members present the museum with a copy of their "50th Year Reunion Commemorative Edition." Extreme left and right are Lee Cook, Decatur, and Kay Powell, Atlanta, who were the editors. A class couple, Shirley Ann McDonald Price and Larry Price, Albany, joined them for the presentation to Donald Davis, museum executive director. Lee Cook's daughter Liz McNeal designed the book. Classmates helping with the book included Leo Wells, Atlanta; Gene Greneker, Atlanta; Denny Irwin, Carmichael, CA; Bill and Jeannette Moore Parr, Escondido, CA, and Artie Plowden, Milledgeville.



Left: Lee and Mary Alice Grizzell Cook came to the museum on Friday before the class visits on Saturday. She donated items of her aunt, Mary Elizabeth Poindexter, that included a 1922 South Georgia State Normal College (VSU) class photograph (all the ladies with bobbed hair), a 1922 Graduation Invitation, a 1922 SGSNC Picture Book, and a 1926 GSWC Pine Cone. Mary Alice attended VHS as a freshmen transferring to Lowndes County High when it opened in 1959. She was 1962 yearbook editor at LoHi.



Professionals from Turkey, Valdosta Chapter AAUW at the museum



Above: Dr. Betty Derrick, Dr. Patricia Marks, and Dr. Martha Leake browse the AAUW clippings file. **Below:** Bettye McClendon, Christine James, Anita Ondrusek, Annie Fisher enjoy AAUW scrapbooks which are archived at the museum.



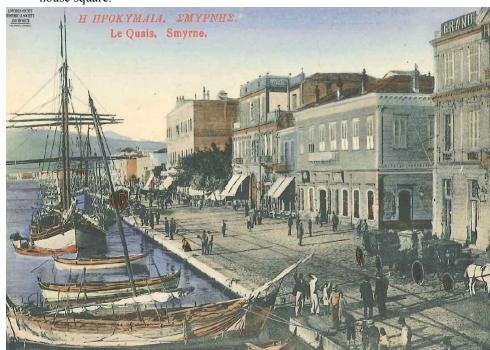


Above: A photograph from the 1995 AAUW scrapbook shows on the left the late Dr. Louise Hanes when installed as organization president and Carolyn Duncan, right, becoming vice president.



On Saturday, May 5, the museum had five visitors from the nation of Turkey, or Turkiye, who were participants in the Rotary International Group Study Exchange Program (GSE). Left to right are Ilkin Sengun, food microbiologist from Izmir; Deniz Alpan, English language instructor from Izmir; Onur Ozer, in foreign trade and marketing from Izmir; Elif Cevlik, English language instructor from Bursa; and Ilknir Ozer, the team leader, and psychologist from Bodrum. She also visited the Child Advocacy Center early Saturday, as part of her work is with developmental disabilities and child abuse.

The museum prepared a slideshow that included items from our local history that told international stories. One story was of the 32 Americans that died during the Berlin Airlift, one being buried in Valdosta. Having once bordered the Soviet Union, they well understood stopping Communism. With big help from Rozzie Bird of Atlanta we showed them 100 year old postcard images of Turkey. In relation to the Grand Tour *Olympic/Titanic* article in the last newsletter, Rozzie checked the effects of her grandmother Laura Ashley Bird and found over 75 postcards from the 1912 Grand Tour. We told that these were the first people from Valdosta, to our knowledge, to tour their homeland and that part of the group had lived in the current Crescent house. The postcard below is of Izmir, in 1912 called Smyrna. Onur Ozer said the location is just a few blocks from his home. The English teachers said that they would say "Hey y'all" in south Georgia but do not teach it back in Turkey. They had tried boiled peanuts earlier at Farm Days on the Courthouse square.



Leadership Lowndes 2012

The 2012 Leadership Lowndes Class visited the Lowndes County Historical Museum on May 17 during their Quality of Life Day, having just toured Wild Adventures theme park. The group was shown the museum slideshow, "Decades of Development," which covers the 1890s through the 1920s when local leaders effectively laid the ground work for the community's future success. After the slideshow the group completed the Leadership Lowndes Historical Scavenger Hunt. As they left the museum each received a bottle of Coca-Cola complete with peanuts, recognizing Valdosta as the second place in the world to bottle Coca-Cola and peanuts as a significant south Georgia crop. Some of the group at the museum were: Right: Amanda Peacock, Mainstreet Director; and Justin Martin, Investments. Below left: Stan Crance, Brightway Insurance; Stacy Bush, Investments; and Michael Anderson, Express Employment Professionals. Below right: L. Lake Jordan, Coleman Talley Law; Jamie Hill, Lowndes schools; Kevin McCraney, Georgia Power.











Above: NJ (Naval Junior) ROTC cadets from Brunswick High School visited the museum on the afternoon of May 11. They had met their goals and were rewarded with a trip to Wild Adventures with the museum being an educational experience on the trip. With a few slides in a PowerPoint we told them the story of "Valdosta's Governor" M. E. Thompson and the purchase of Jekyll Island. After the presentation the group toured the museum and grounds. Thea Thompson had donated one of her grandfather's governor nameplates to the museum and many had their photograph made with it. One chaperone, John Day, who is employed for the Jekyll Island Authority [JIA], very much enjoyed the presentation and gifted us with his JIA cap and told us of the opening of the new convention center on May 20. The bridge to Jekyll is named for M. E. Thompson.



April, May, June 2012

Above: Jeremy Petrella, extreme left in the photograph, instructs his class during their visit to the museum. Jeremy teaches history for South Georgia College on the VSU campus. He has completed the second in his series of changing museum exhibits on the Civil War, this one covering 1862. He will continue these 150 years commemoration exhibits finishing with a large exhibit in 2015. Jeremy's family moved to Valdosta several years ago from New York state. His Civil War ancestors were all Union soldiers.



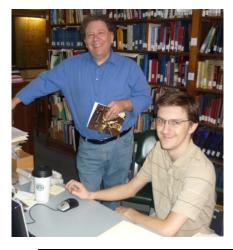
Above: Dr Stephen W. Edmondson at the museum. Dr Edmondson is a native of Brooks County now retired and he and his wife reside in Clayton in the Georgia mountains. He recently contacted the museum concerning his preparing a grave marker dedication in a remote north Lowndes cemetery. Almost forty years ago relatives showed him the unmarked burial site of a great uncle, James Edmondson, b.1799 - d.1864, in Keel Cemetery. The Edmondsons were very early Lowndes pioneers arriving in the 1820s. Before the development of municipal or church cemeteries, family cemeteries were begun, with some of them later becoming abandoned or remote.

The dedication was on Sunday afternoon May 6. James Edmondson had been in the Indian War militia and Gail Hughes of Adel participated representing the Brushy Creek Chapter Daughters of the Indian Wars. Keel Cemetery is down a dirt path off Val Del Road. It has ancient magnolia and cedar trees.

Dr. Edmondson gifted the museum with a copy of his 352 page Edmondson book and several early family photographs.



Above: On April 20, The Lowndes County Historical Society agreed to host "The Magic of Downtown" Historical Walking Tour, Downtown Valdosta. The tour was held in recognition of Georgia Cities Week. The tour can be adapted but covers up to 25 sites. Left to right in the photograph are Adam Doughty and Drew Johnson, museum staff who were tour guides and Valdosta City Councilman Alvin Payton who was a tour participant.



Left: Roy Lavine, standing, of the LaQuinta Inn and Adam Doughty, staff. Lavine came to the museum to select historic images to be used in a major remodeling of the LaQuinta. Adam supplied him with several photos from the museum's digital archives.

Gifts in Honor





Harold & Virginia P. Bennett Virginia Hutchinson Culpepper **Dorothy Dalton Paine** Anita Hatcher Shelton **Jane Twitty Shelton**

Gloria Dalton Sorenson

Memorials





Harold Martin Bennett

Βv Jerry N. Byrd Tomie Jean R. Blanton James D. and Ingrid Carroll Dan Coleman & Carolyn Eager Donald O. Davis Jane L. Ferrell Patsy T. Giles W. Parker and Lucy Greene George H. and Lilla Kate Hart Norman and Mary June Huggins Mr. and Mrs. John B. Lastinger Drs. Dennis and Patricia Marks Dr. Malcolm F. and Bonnie Rainev Catherine L. Redles Morris Smith Dr. Joe C. and Matilda Stubbs Susan McKey Thomas William Converse "Bud" Thomas Lyndle E. Thomas, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Willis

Fred M. Bajalia

Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Willis

Connie Christy

Hank and Claire S. Lee

Barneta O'Ouinn Davis

Gloria Dalton Sorenson

Vera Wilson Drynan

Portland, OR

Sally L. Follen Portland, OR

Julian E. "Boots" Tudor

L. Steve Wansley

John Robert Wiggins, Jr.

L. Steve Wansley

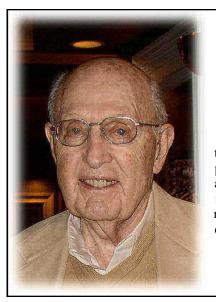
Twin Sisters

Eliza Peeples McLemeore

Griffin, GA

Louie Peeples White

Gloria Dalton Sorenson



Email/phone

Harold M. Bennett 1915—2012

On June 4, the Lowndes County Historical Society lost, at age 97, an exceptional friend and contributor. He greatly understood that communities are built, and exist or choose to thrive in the culture that built them. Harold was the Clerk of the Works in 1995 and '96 overseeing the restoration of the historical museum building and the physical aspects of the lower gallery development, all as a volunteer. He served ably on our Board of Trustees for many years. The society established the Harold M. Bennett Annual Award for Historic Preservation in 1994. He contributed greatly to the Valdosta Heritage Foundation, Valdosta City Hall restoration, to the Sunset Hill Cemetery reorganization and to his church and many other organizations.

2012 memberships

(Cont'd from previous newsletter)

Robert Adair Ft. Worth, TX Letty Allen Marie George Beam

Daniel S. Coleman Bill and Camille Davis

Frank Christian

Tallahassee, FL Shelly Decker

Pinetta, FL Kelly and Diane Dees Fred DeLoach, III

Atlanta, GA Charles and Pauline Farris

Hemphill, TX

Bill and Linda L. Grondahl Clemmy George Haltiwanger

Eugenia G. Hobbs

Julie H. Lumsden Ashburn, GA

Tim and Kay McLeod

Beth DeLoach Meeks Robbie Blanton Moody

Atlanta, GA

Jesse F. Moore Alexandria, VA

John P. Page

Keven Parks

Mary E. Rudd Jacksonville, FL

Clint and Barbara Slocumb Elmer and June Spear Madison, FL

Valdosta Insurance Services Buddy and Analease Walker T. Lavelle and Lyndal Webb H. Harris and Jerry West





Gift in Memory

The Valdosta Sesquicentennial Historical Tour Group has made a donation in memory of

Louie Peeples White

In remembrance of her devotion to and promotion of Valdosta and Lowndes County, Georgia

Mail to: LCHS P.O. Box 56 Valdosta, GA 31603	2012 Membership Application Lowndes County Historical Society
Name	
Address	

Membership Category

Individual \$25. Family **Business** Contributing 100. Patron 250.

MUSEUM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 23Juneteenth participation activitiesJuly 4Museum closed in observance of Independence DayJuly 12Valdosta DARE Program museum activityJuly 30Valdosta DARE Program museum activityAugustChamber of Commerce 100 Years Exhibit opensSeptember 1 and 3Museum 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, Redden Hart; Past President, Julie Smith;

Executive Committee: Mary McRee, Anita Shelton, and Susie Thomas

Lowndes County Historical Society & Museum

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Web page: http://www.valdostamuseum.com

YESTERDAY & TODAY

Newsletter of **Lowndes County Historical Society**

Newsletter Editor Donald O. Davis Assistants

J. Adam Doughty Andrew W. Johnson

Museum Staff

Donald O. Davis Director

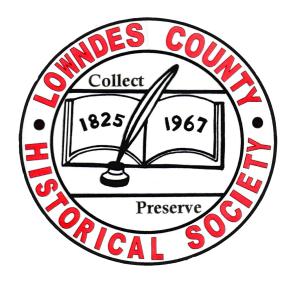
Amy Brown Textiles and Research

J. Adam Doughty Andrew W. Johnson

Heather Burns College Volunteer

YESTERDAY & TODAY

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Return Service Requested