

All The Way to #1 by Timothy Hudak **Extensive Archives Keep Us Busy with Researchers**

The museum has copies of approximately three dozen different commercially published books of which the authors used the resources of Lowndes County Historical Museum archives. We have no idea what the total would be if you add in magazine articles, family histories, reunion booklets, research papers, consultant companies journals, and digitized photo albums, etc.

Our most recent work with an author has been with Timothy L. Hudak, Sports Heritage Specialty Publications, Cleveland, Ohio. His book, with John R. Pflug, Jr., is titled *All the Way to #1, The Story of the Greatest High School Football National Championship Teams of the 20th Century*.

The book topic is described, "The 20th century was the defining era of high school football, and during that time a select group of programs across the country solidified their reputations as the nation's greatest. These programs—with legendary coaches like Paul Brown, Wright Bazemore, Gerry Faust, and Bob Ladouceur—produced national championship teams with names

like Massillon, Valdosta, Moeller, and De La Salle."

"*All the Way to #1* is the first book to thoroughly document the nation's top high school football teams from the 20th Century. Identifying seventeen legendary programs, football historian Timothy Hudak tells the exciting and entertaining stories of how these teams came to prominence on the national stage."

The paperback book is 408 pages "Filled with 330 black and white photos, and the most comprehensive listing of the 20th century's high school football champions found anywhere."

Tim Hudak first contacted us by telephone in November 2013, following the call with an email. He and John Pflug had previously written an essay which became the basis for the book and the essay was attached to the email. The email stated:

"Great talking with you this morning. The years that we are primarily interested in for this book are as follows:

*National Champion—1962-1969-1971-1984-1986-1992

*Finished high in national polls (probably second);
1961-1966-1968-1982."

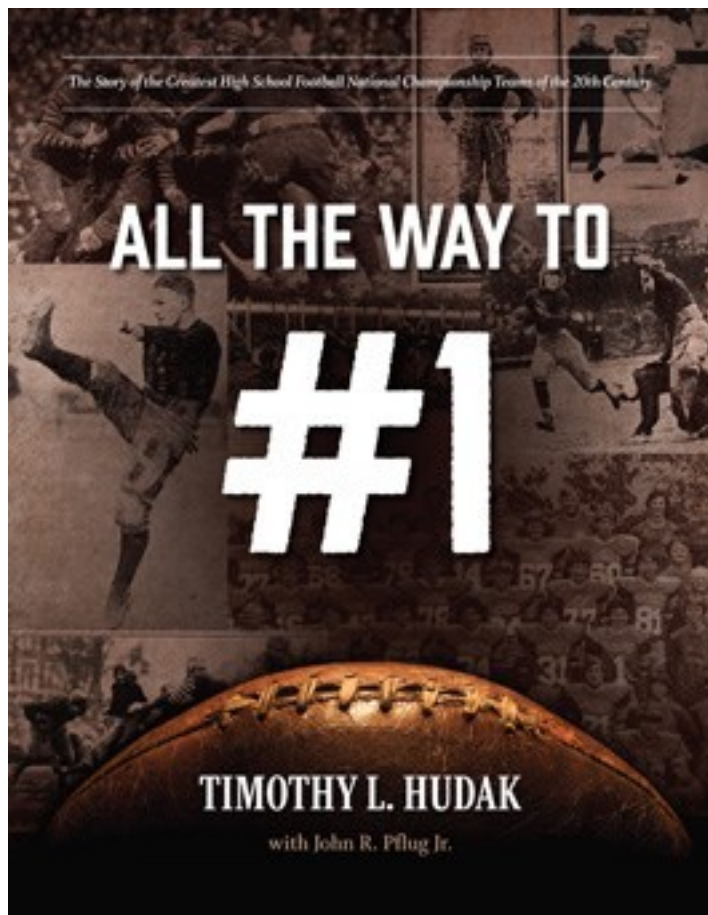
An Excerpt from *All The Way to #1*,

Tim Hudak told that Valdosta is one of only two schools with two chapters in the book. The segment below is from his first draft which he told might have to be shortened. This particular excerpt is the end of the 1968 season and the beginning of 1969.

"The season's final game, the Class AAA state championship, was played on Saturday, December 12, in Atlanta at Georgia Tech's Grant Field. It was a bitterly cold day by most standards, but especially so for Georgia, with the temperature barely hitting 20 degrees, a blustery wind of 15-25 mph bringing the wind chill substantially lower, and there were even snow flurries throughout the game for added "atmosphere." Despite the weather conditions 12,476 hardy football fans showed up for the game.

Valdosta's opponent for the big game was the team from Forest Park High School. The Panther's were undefeated, 12-0-0, but had only really been tested in a couple of games. Valdosta, having outscored its opponents by 438-19 appeared to be the pregame favorite.

Call it luck or getting the breaks, but whatever it was it came Valdosta's way very early in the game. The Wildcats kicked off to open the contest. On the third play from scrimmage Forest Park fumbled the ball and it was recovered by Valdosta's Charles Shenton at the Forest Park 37-yard line. On first down a Larry Howell to Mike Flail aerial was good for 37 yards and a Valdosta touchdown. Glenn Williams added the point to give Valdosta an early 7-0 lead. (cont. page 2)



As Yogi Berra might say, "it was déjà vu all over again." Valdosta kicked off and again on the third play from scrimmage at the Forest Park 26-yard line the panthers fumbled the ball. As the football skipped along the turf at the Panthers 13-yard line Valdosta's Jerry Neal grabbed it and raced into the end zone for another Wildcats score. Glenn Williams added the point to increase the Valdosta lead to 14-0.

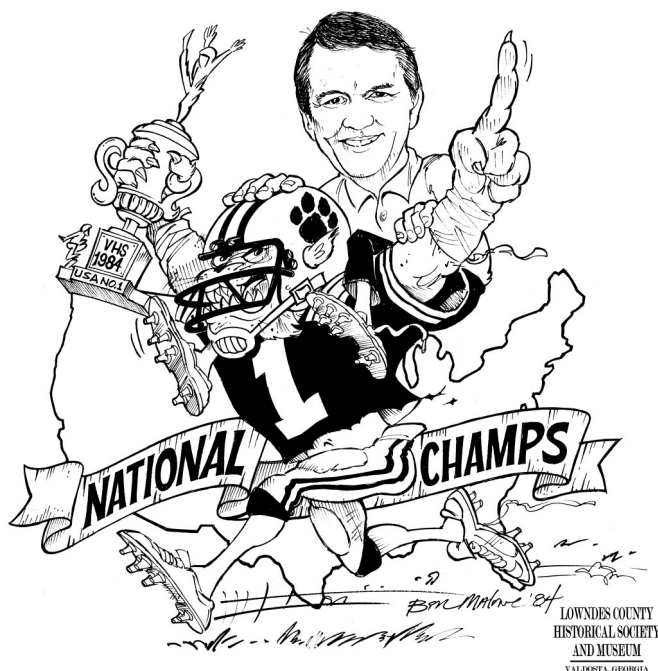
For the third time in the first quarter the Wildcats kicked off. This time on the fateful third play, as the writer for the *Valdosta Daily Times* noted, "someone changed the script." On this first down Forest Park's Randy Kidd rifled a pass down the middle of the field to Danny Sullivan, and before the Valdosta secondary could catch up to him Sullivan had scampered 67 yards, all the way down to the Wildcats one-yard line. On the next play Kidd burst into the end zone for a Forest Park touchdown. The extra point try sailed wide left to leave the score 14-6.

That would end the scoring in a most entertaining and eventful first quarter. Turnovers would also play a big part in the second quarter. A Valdosta fumble would lead to a second Panthers touchdown, while an interception by the Wildcats, Ronnie Pitcock would eventually add to the Valdosta total and a 21-12 lead at intermission.

The second half was all Valdosta as the Wildcats added 13 points in the third quarter and a 27-yard Glenn Williams field goal in the final frame for a 37-12 victory.

The Wildcats ended the season a perfect 13-0-0 (14 in a row since the previous season). The National Sports News Service named the Wildcats the #2 team in the nation.

The 1968 Valdosta season had been one of the most dominating in its history; but, with 18 seniors having graduated, 17 of them starters, the prospects for the '69 campaign were decidedly unknown. As head coach Wright Bazemore noted in one preseason interview, his team had potential, but it lacked experience.



Above: A drawing from 1984 by artist Bill Malone, 1969 VHS graduate. When Tim Hudak asked if drawn images existed concerning the National Championship years the museum contacted Bill Malone who graciously shared several images for potential use in the book.



Above: In April of this year, Karen Lyons Pierce brought items to the museum of the late art teacher Patsy C. Smith. Among the items was this 1984 National Championship plaque personalized to "Patsy Smith, Wildcat Lady."

There would be little time to tinker and experiment with players as the first game quickly arrived on September 5. The opponent was the Thomasville Bulldogs. The Bulldogs would again be a force to be reckoned with in Class AA, as the Wildcats were to find out.

The game was played in Thomasville before a standing room only crowd of more than 8,000 on another hot and humid September night in south Georgia. All of the scoring in this one took place within a two minute span of the second quarter. The first points came when the Valdosta's Aaron Holder tipped a Thomasville aerial that was then intercepted by Curt Bazemore at the Bulldogs 20-yard line. Bazemore returned the ball all the way for a Valdosta touchdown, Danny O'Neal adding the placement to give the Wildcats a 7-0 lead.

Following the ensuing kickoff Thomasville went three and out and was forced to punt. Valdosta's Warrick Taylor caught the ball at his own 31-yard line and ran it back 69 yards for another Valdosta touchdown. Danny O'Neal added the extra point and Valdosta had increased its lead to 14-0.

And that was it for the games scoring. Valdosta had emerged with a first game victory, but despite 181 total yards the Wildcat offense had not scored a single point.

If there was any concern in this regard, it was soon dispelled over the coming weeks:

Valdosta 41 Dougherty 0
 Valdosta 34 Wayne County 0
 Valdosta 63 Ware County 0
 Valdosta 28 Albany 0
 Valdosta 21 Moultrie 0
 Valdosta 38 Monroe (Albany) 0
 Valdosta 46 Coffee County 0

Eight games, eight shutouts, 34 consecutive shutout quarters going back to 1968. Averaging almost 36 points per game the offense had obviously found its stride."

Acknowledgement Appreciated

At right, Harry Evans working with Tim Hudak showing him VHS scrapbooks from our archives. The museum staff appreciates Hudak's kind mention of us in his Acknowledgements.

"Typical of the help we received was that provided by the staff at the Lowndes County Historical Society and Museum in Valdosta, Georgia. When first contacted by phone, Executive Director Donald Davis enthusiastically agreed to generously provide whatever materials he might have. About a year later, author Tim Hudak and his wife Patti Graziano traveled to Valdosta and visited the Historical Society in person. Executive Director Davis and Harry Evans, in the Special collections and Research departments, were "southern hospitality" personified as they opened the Museum's vast collection to us. Without them the chapters about the Valdosta Wildcats would not be nearly as complete."

After visiting Valdosta Tim Hudak sent us an email: "As I have told the readers of my weekly newsletter, **Monday Morning QuarterBack**, your help will go a long way toward helping me complete my book. The Valdosta Wildcats museum is the finest of its type that I have ever seen and the football stadium is exceptional. Thanks again for your help and hospitality."



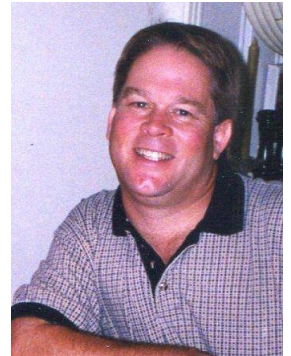
Editor's Notes: 1. We have some books available for sale, \$34.95. At the time of newsletter preparation we did not know shipping cost. Contact us.

2. **Concerning Cleveland:** Tim Hudak lives in Cleveland, Ohio. He writes of the first high school football game in the nation being played in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1890. Note that Valdosta High's National Championship, and most all its teams, spent their years here playing on Cleveland Field.



National Championship Jacket from 1971

Tim Hudak began his communications with the museum about National Championship football teams late in 2013. In January of 2014 the museum acquisitioned its first National Championship jacket, that of the late Loren Dodson, *photo right*. It was donated by his brother, Duane Dodson, *photo left*, of St. George Island, Florida, and Valdosta. Loren had passed away on October 30, 2013 in Ocala, FL. The right sleeve of the jacket displays the state championship and Wildcat emblem, while the left sleeve displays the national championship logo and player number. This was the last team with Wright Bazemore as head coach.



The Society for Georgia Archaeology at the Museum



The Society for Georgia Archaeology [SGA] held their state meeting at the museum on May 29 and 30. They chose Valdosta for this meeting to coincide with Dr. Marvin Smith's retirement at VSU. Marvin Smith is a long time member of the Board of Trustees of the Lowndes County Historical Society and his wife Julie a former society president. The Georgia Council of Professional Archaeologist [GCPA] also held a board meeting during this period. The theme of the conference was *Native Shores, European Waves: Contact Archaeology in Georgia*. Several papers were delivered during the conference including two covering the south Georgia area: *Regional Abandonment and Community Organization: Regional and Community Perspectives on the North Georgia Coast*, and the second *Protohistoric Fort Walton, Mission Period, and Lamar in the Apalachicola– Lower Chattahoochee/Flint Valley Region*. In the former topic North Georgia coast refers from Sapelo Island up to Tybee Island.

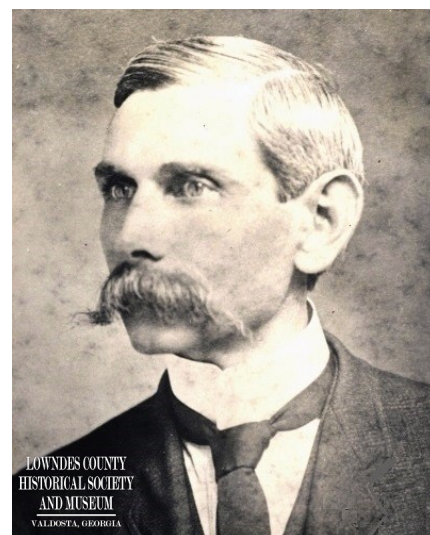
In the photo *upper left* are Jim Langford of Calhoun, Georgia, and Marvin Smith. Langford presented Marvin Smith with a commemorative T-shirt from the 1992-93 King Site excavation, site on the Coosa River west of Rome that Marvin Smith first dug in 1971. Their fathers were fraternity brothers at UGA and they have a lifelong association. Aside from his business interests Langford is a past president of both the SGA and GCPA, founder and president of the Coosawattee Foundation, and member, Board of Councilors of the Carter Presidential Center in Atlanta. He is Executive Director of the Georgia Meth Project.

In the photo *at left* are Marvin Smith, Frankie Snow and Chris Trowell. Snow, currently at South Georgia State College Douglas campus, has a passion for archaeology and has devoted most of his time to the study of artwork of the Swift Creek period (AD 200—AD 700). When



Marvin Smith with his VSU students dug in the Valdosta Home Depot parking lot area before its paving they found Swift Creek artifacts. Chris Trowell is a retired history, anthropology and geography teacher at the former South Georgia College. He has given programs at the museum. His historical, genealogical and botanical knowledge of the Okefenokee area is fascinating. After the lectures at the museum Marvin Smith headed a tour to nearby downtown sites that his classes had dug, including the Roberts house on Wells Street and the old Briggs Street neighborhood behind the museum.

We asked Dr. Smith to recall sites that he and students had dug and he named the following stating that some were two year projects: Strickland Farm near Moody AFB; Luke Farm on the Withlacoochee; Cypress Lakes; Industrial Park Dillard's area and the S.L. Mason School. The most interesting dig was the three year Spanish Mission site near the Georgia Welcome Center on I-75. They also dug at the old two-story Smith house at the corner of Gordon and Slater Streets. Now owned by VSU, for many years it was the Masonic Lodge. It was previously owned by Marvin Smith's ancestors. His great-great-grandfather Oscar M. Smith, *photo right*, was mayor of Valdosta 1897-98. The SGA made a generous donation to the museum in appreciation of accommodations.



Museum Program Featured a Lecture by Alfred Willis, PhD:

The Lowndes County Historical Society program on June 22 featured architectural historian Alfred Willis speaking on *Western Looks in Valdosta's 20th Century Homes: Bungalows, Montereys, Ranches and the Rest*. The well attended lecture brought several new faces to the museum. The *Valdosta Daily Times* covered portions of information from the presentation in an article. Because of the broad scope of covering bungalows, montereyes and ranches at one time, in talking with Alfred he shared that he could supply a newsletter article on bungalows.

The museum is most thankful to Alfred. Because of his research and efforts Valdosta will have an exception record of its architectural heritage, by far and absolutely surpassing that of most localities. He has also recently given different lectures on the Crescent, and several years ago on *Modernism and Modernity in Valdosta Architecture 1930 –1970*. He has also researched local architects, especially Lloyd Greer and Felton Davis. His article and photographs begin below and continue on pages six and seven.

Highlights of Valdosta's Bungalow Heritage

By Alfred Willis, PhD

A bungalow craze swept the world in the early 20th century, transforming neighborhoods, lifestyles, and home-ownership in big cities small towns, and rural areas alike. Valdosta and Lowndes County were no exception. The typical bungalow was a one-story frame or hollow-tile house designed to accommodate a single family living informally without servants. Although many wealthy people opted for large, luxurious bungalows, and many served as rental properties, the bulk of them were 4– to 9-room dwellings marketed to lower-middle-class home-buyers.

Because low price was crucial to selling bungalows, their plans typically eliminated foyers and long interior hallways, reduced kitchens and bathrooms to minimal dimensions, and used built-ins to allow some rooms to serve more than one function.

Bungalow exteriors came in several styles, the most popular being Swiss (sometimes mixed with Japanese to create the so-called “Craftsman” look), the Mission or Mediterranean, and the American Colonial.

Custom architects met the demand for bungalow designs less often than did stock-plan services, so many of which operated out of California that by World War I “bungalow” and “California Bungalow” had become almost synonymous.

The Valdosta neighborhoods built up over the first half of the 20th century featured countless bungalows, a fair number of which survive and are either still used as residences or have been converted to business use. The block including 106-108 East Force, 1000-1010 Slater, and 107-109 East Mary Streets is notable as a nearly intact example of a complete bungalow district. Probably few of Valdosta's “California bungalows” were actually designed in California. Instead, their plans more likely came from local or regional designers, including Lloyd Greer and perhaps Leila Ross Wilburn of Atlanta.

A Bungalow on Patterson Street

Below: The house built about 1912 for David Plowden at 1109 North Patterson is a luxurious bungalow featuring fine wood detailing. An extremely long single span allows the front porch to present a fully open face to Valdosta's most prominent residential Street.



Above: At his Museum lecture Alfred Willis talks bungalows with Richard Dasher, a VHS classmate now living in Palo Alto, California, who was in Valdosta on one of his regular visits.



Bungalow Heritage by Willis *continued*

Adapted to Business Use

A spacious polygonal porch accommodated outdoor living in an especially beautiful way in the W. D. Hobbs bungalow built about 1924 at 1211 North Ashley. This elegant yet understated credit to Valdosta is now the home of Lee Loan & Tax.

A Fine Swiss-Styled Bungalow

The shingle-sided Thomas Whittington bungalow at 400 West Gordon, erected about 1924, is a wonderfully maintained, Swiss-style home. Whittingtons occupied this prized family home for well over half a century.



Japanese Detailing

Another Craftsman styled bungalow from the mid 1920s, situated at 1106 North Toombs, has Valdosta's most outstanding Japanese-inspired woodwork supporting its front porch. The massiveness of the brick and masonry elements on the front of this house are highly characteristic of lower-middle-class American taste from before and after World War I.

Mission Styled Bungalows

The William A. Belote bungalow at 501 East Rogers, from 1912, was perhaps Valdosta's first Mission-style house. The austerity of its architecture is echoed by that of the John T. Herring bungalow, from about 1924, at 109 East College (not pictured). Both of these houses recall the work of San Diego, California, architect Irving Gill, who became famous for the extreme simplicity of his Mission-inspired designs.

Also not pictured, The T. I. Denmark bungalow at 206 East Brookwood Place, circa 1924, with molding across the top of its scrolled front porch gable, exemplifies a more ornamental expression of Mission style close to that used for the original buildings of the nearby Georgia State Woman's College (now VSU).



“Ideal Wall”

At 212 East College Street, the large hip-roofed bungalow built for Fred Murphy in the mid- to late 1920s provides a rare example of the innovative “Ideal Wall” brick bearing wall construction promoted by the Common Brick Manufacturer's Association of America out of Cleveland, Ohio. Here all the bricks are laid as rowlocks so as to create an insulating air space between outer and inner surfaces.



Airplane Bungalow

At 1203 North Ashley a stuccoed “airplane bungalow” (so called because it has a small upstairs sleeping room peeking out over the roof, looking like a cockpit) was built to a design found in a 1921 plan book issued by the Southern Pine Association of New Orleans. The same plan seems to have been used to build another airplane bungalow at 900 South Toombs. Airplane bungalows are quite common in Valdosta, though said to be rare in most places.



Plan from Southern Pine Association

Another Southern Pine Association Plan, one published in 1926, was used to build the H. O. Youmans bungalow at 201 East Cranford. Its chimney is decorated with the unusual motif of a blind Gothic lancet. The orientation of this house, with its long side parallel to the street would become increasingly popular in the 1930s.



Valdosta's First Monterey Bungalow

This speculatively built bungalow at 221 High Street, perhaps designed by Felton Davis and offered for sale in 1939, introduced the newly fashionable Monterey style to Valdosta's middle range of home buyers. Oriented with its long side parallel to its street frontage, this house announces the transformation of the bungalow into the ranch house. A ranch house craze swept America after World War II and by 1960 would transform Valdosta from a compact New South town into a sprawling little city eager to receive the full dispensation of modernism.





Video Cameras In the Museum

At **top left** : Jenny Beck Howard, of Valdosta; Joke Ballintin and Ingrid Bessems, both of The Netherlands; and Betty Gene Beck Birdwell of Marietta. The parents of Ingrid Bessems have for many years participated in the adopt a grave program at Margarten Cemetery of soldiers dying in WWII. The burial happens to be that of Sidney Beck, a brother of our former mayor, the late James M. Beck, and uncle to Jenny and Betty Gene. Ingrid Bessems wanted to produce a documentary to promote knowledge of grave site adoption. Jenny researched at the museum to gather bits of information on, and to honor, the uncle they never knew. This led to a museum visit by the documentary film maker from The Netherlands.

In the photo **middle left** is Ingrid Bessems with Arthur Taylor of Toledo, Ohio, who was in Valdosta visiting his son Steven Taylor of the VSU music faculty. The Taylors happened into the museum during the same time as the documentary crew. All of us became excited as Mr. Taylor told the story of his brother that died in WWII being buried in this same Margarten Cemetery as Sidney Beck. The documentary was later completed and the Beck sisters went to Holland for ceremonies.

At **bottom left** is VSU film student Trenton Jones who came to Valdosta State from Thomas County Central High School. He interviewed us at the museum as part of a video on the Winnersville rivalry. When seen later at his job at Valdosta Medical Clinic he reported he got an A on the project.

Below, Winnie Wright of the WCTV Valdosta Bureau when she interviewed staff on the deconstruction of the W. Savannah Avenue water tower.



MEMORIALS

Virginia Bolen Pendleton Bennett

by

Dr. and Mrs. William Oliver, Jr.
Macon, GA

Mitchell Jones Smith, Jr.

by

Archie and Lee Griffin
J. Edward Willis

Nancy Rutledge Wainer Parrott

by

Archie and Lee Griffin

Wayne Morris Smith

by

Dr. Jerah Johnson
New Orleans, LA

Merle Whitefield Reddick

by

Donald O. Davis
Patsy T. Giles
J. Edward Willis

Dr. Robert Lee Stump, Jr.

by

Patsy T. Giles
Archie and Lee Griffin
Anita Hatcher Shelton
J. Edward Willis

2015 New & Renewal Memberships

(continued from previous 2015 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.

Ron and Tammy Borders
Luther and Carol McGahee
Fayetteville, GA
Wyn Miller
Mary E. Ventura



Golfing: 75th Jack Oliver

With the 75th Jack Oliver this year and the 100th year of the Valdosta Country Club near (founded in 1917) researches have been contacting the museum gathering various golfing information and photos in relation to activity at VCC.

VHS State Champions 5th Consecutive Year

The photo at *left*, taken at VCC, is from the museum archives, 1958 VHS yearbook. The golf team members were **Front Row**: Bill Eager, Tommy Hatcher, Jack Oliver, Bobby Vallotton, Jack Taylor. **Second Row**: Al Dean, Doug Davis, Wilbur Warner, Charlie Clark, Jimmy Parrish. The foursome of Warner, team Captain; Clark, Davis and Hatcher won the Golf State Championship in 1958, the 5th consecutive for VHS. Bill Bennett was team coach.

2015 Membership Application, Lowndes County Historical Society, P.O. Box 56, Valdosta, GA 31603

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Membership Category

Individual \$25. ____
Family 30. ____
Business 25/50. ____
Contributing 100. ____
Patron 250. ____

MUSEUM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Continuing Exhibit.....Valdosta & Lowndes During the Civil War
September 24..... Open Bible School
September 24 / 2pm.....Annual Membership Meeting
November 26—29.....Closed for Thanksgiving

Lowndes County Historical Society & Museum

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

YESTERDAY & TODAY

Newsletter of
Lowndes County Historical Society

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