



Valdosta and the Civil War

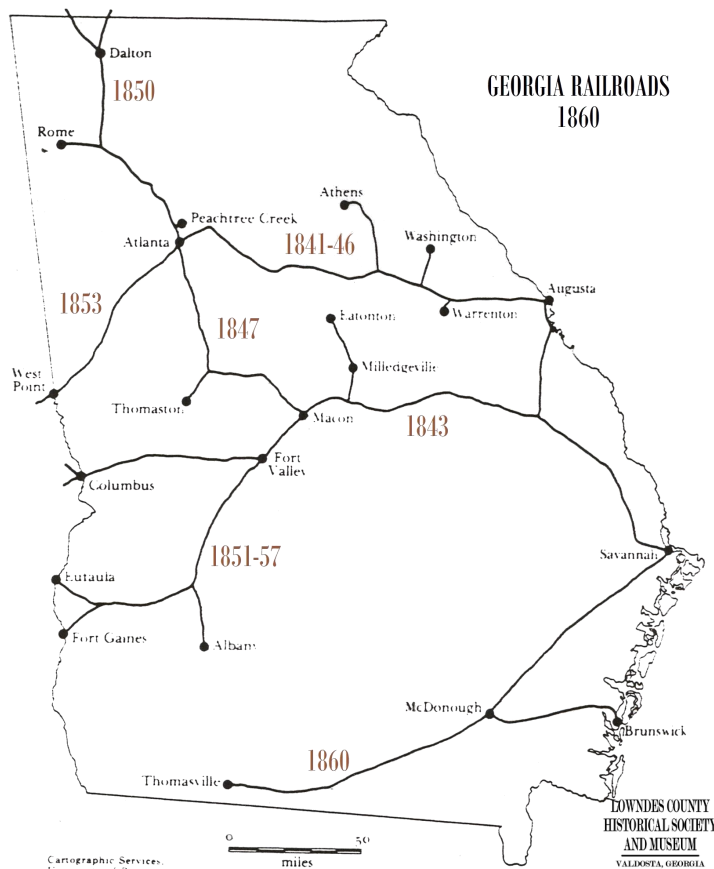
We are in the period of 150 years since the Civil War 1861-1865 and Reconstruction thereafter. An upcoming exhibit at the museum will cover local happenings and effects of the Civil War in Valdosta: refugees, churches, education, shortages, soldiers, family losses, troop movements and troop occupation. Also artifacts and textiles of the period will be exhibited. A feature will be the T. A. Faries Collection which contains many era original military and other documents.

Valdosta, being only five months incorporated when the Civil War broke out in 1861, just is antebellum. The first inhabitants of current Lowndes County had only arrived forty years earlier in 1821.

The Georgia Department of Economic Development produced a publication *Georgia's Guide to the Civil War*. Even though we are a somewhat remote area to Civil War activity they included Valdosta, Quitman and Thomasville in their information with the Lowndes County Historical Society Museum specifically mentioned as a site because of our artifacts and the Valdosta stories as a refugee town during the war.

Following these introductory paragraphs are two articles written in 1918 by Benjamin T. Allen when he was editor of the Pearson Tribune, the articles being *Some of the Sufferings of the of the Civil War Period* and *People Ate What They Could Get and Were Content*.

Information also follows on the discovery of B.T. Allen's articles and his living in Thomasville, Johnston's Station (Ludowici), Valdosta, Quitman and Pearson, which gave him a broader perspective on south Georgia.



The railroad map above charts early rail development in Georgia. Rail first serviced the Augusta, Savannah and Atlanta areas. Rail would reach Valdosta in July 1860, before the new settlement was incorporated, and Thomasville in April 1861. The rail brought refugees to Valdosta, some stayed and became leading citizens.

Pearson Tribune, October 18, 1918

Memories of The Long Ago

Some of the Sufferings of the Civil War Period

"When war was declared between the North and South, in 1861, my father enlisted in a company from Thomasville, commanded by Captain Lucian C. Bryan, and known as the "Dixie Boys."

The "Dixie Boys" were first stationed at Screven, in Wayne County, and did patrol along the Atlantic and Gulf railroad. Picket posts were established at the important railroad bridges, and especially the one spanning the Little Satilla river.

This watch of the railroad bridges was necessary because the Georgia seacoast was unprotected and the enemy could easily land a force for the purpose of destroying them. It was vitally important that the railroad was protected and kept open for transportation. (continued on page 6)

Notes on the Liberty Club and the 400 Block of South Ashley

In the photo at right is John Clark McCall, Jr., when donating a print of his watercolor of the Liberty Club and Liberty Theater to the museum. The marquee depicts the time of a performance by young Ella Fitzgerald when in Valdosta at the Liberty Club. The club was at 400 S. Ashley Street with Florida Avenue and the Georgia Southern and Florida railroad on the north side of the building. The Blue Note was a later name.

At the museum we began checking City Directories as to when and where and which business had occupied this building and other buildings nearby.

Soon after the donation Al Willis, PhD in architectural history, who was in town to visit his father, came by the museum telling that he had been collecting information for a future presentation on Valdosta architecture from the late thirties and early forties up until the 1950s construction of "the first ranch style home."

He became interested in the Liberty Theater and that led to a particular notice of the structure across Ashley Street the McLean Building.

In the 1951 City Directory the McLean Building shows housing the Negro Chamber of Commerce of Valdosta & Lowndes County, the black County Agent, the black County Home Demonstration Agent, County Rural Colored Schools Supervisor, Guaranty Life Insurance Company and Pilgrim Health & Life



Insurance Co. The 1951 City Directory also includes the advertisement below placed by The Negro Chamber of Commerce of Valdosta and Lowndes County. Other 400 S. Ashley Street listings in this directory include: St. Paul AME Church; Mathew Brown shoe repair; Afro American Life Insurance Co.; North Carolina Life Insurance Co.; Corbett Realty Co.; Henry L. White Real Estate; Rev. William F. Foley; John J. Manson, grocery; Atlanta Life Insurance Co.; Chat Chew Inn, restaurant; and Anthony Thomas, grocery.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

LOWNDES COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
AND MUSEUM
VALDOSTA, GEORGIA

The Negro Chamber of Commerce of Valdosta and Lowndes County

WISHES TO THANK THE NEGRO BUSINESS FIRMS
WHOSE ADVERTISING HELPED MAKE THIS CITY
DIRECTORY POSSIBLE.

VALDOSTA OFFERS EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR
NEGRO BUSINESS FIRMS WISHING TO LOCATE IN THIS
AREA.

FULL INFORMATION WILL BE FURNISHED
UPON REQUEST.

411 S. ASHLEY, McLEAN BLDG.

PHONE 2318M

Eating Houses

In searching for information on the beginning of the Liberty Club and Theater early city directories are good quick references. The dilemma is that they were published infrequently. They skip from 1930-31 to 1937. The 1930-31 issue listed restaurants, cafes, lunch rooms and eating houses. Of these four categories we show here the listing of eating houses, businesses and homes where meals were available to black citizens during segregation.

M. L. Brannen 405 S. Ashley
Central Café 112 E. Crane Ave.
Mary Davis 306 1/2 S. Lee
Gus Forest 610 W. Adair
W.E. Harris 405 S. Patterson
Minnie Jones 801 Nardo
Jack Nicholson 401 1/2 E. Gordon
Katie Oxford 219 S. Patterson
Lila Tarver 416 E. Gordon
E D Walker 414 S. Ashley
Nona Whitter 1001 Floyd

Min. Butler is Writing on the First Black Church of Christ in Georgia



Above: Min. Leroy Butler at the museum. He was searching Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, City Directories and other documents for background material for his book which will tell of Valdosta having the first black Church of Christ in Georgia.

Minister Leroy Butler called the museum weeks ago asking the location of the former Magnolia Park. This same park is written as the site for Valdosta High football games from 1913-1922. The very few maps of Valdosta from 100 years ago basically only show streets. However, in searching our archives two or three years ago for the potential preparation of a maps inventory, a 1917 map, rolled and stored with many others, was found that showed each real estate parcel in the city. It also showed a particular open block with no parcels. Thus, we could now confirm Magnolia Park and its boundaries: Magnolia Street on the south; York Street on the west; Johnson Street on the west; and on the north, the rear of residential lots facing North Street.

The title of Rev. Butler's book is *The Legend and Legacy of the West Adair Street Church of Christ, The History of the Black Church of Christ in Georgia* which he hopes to publish in the next year. This congregation is now Woodlawn Fofrest Church of Christ. In 1930 Magnolia Park was the location of the first service and a two-week tent meeting that led to the "planting" of what became West Adair Church. Marshall Keeble of Nashville, TN led the gospel meetings with Luke Miller leading the singing. There were 163 baptisms. With the help of a hundred dollar down payment from the Central Avenue Church of Christ the property at 519 West Adair Street was purchased, where had stood the Dreamland Dance Hall. The second historically black Church of Christ in Georgia was formed soon thereafter in Atlanta. Butler's book will cover the details of this interesting part of Valdosta history.

City Directories Study of Restaurants Brings Remembrances of Wilson Bethea

Wilson Bethea Remembered

After noticing that the 1930 -31 City Directory listed the "Eating Houses" we checked later volumes for listings during this era. In 1949 the term "restaurants" is used. Of note was that the first listing was the home of Wilson Bethea. In the 1949 City Directory he is listed as a fireman at the Langdale Company. He later became custodian at the Williams Street Valdosta High School. "Bethea" became an integral part of the school's annual Student Council Christmas chapel program when he would beautifully sing "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot, Coming for to Carry Me Home."

Photo right: Bethea, after retirement, returned to sing during the December 1967 chapel program. In the background are Robbie Blanton (Moody), and Student Council members Priscilla Wilson, Jani Shira (Stump) and Donald Davis.

Note: The museum would like information and photographs of those named in these restaurant lists. We can scan photographs.



Wilson Bethea

1949 Restaurants, Blacks

Wilson Bethea, 702 S. Holiday St
 Lillie Baker, 105 E. Branch
 Walter Bradley, 202 E. Branch
 Mrs. Emma Caskill, 502 S. Patterson
 Chat Chew Inn, 420 S. Ashley
 Daniel Donaldson, 412 S. Ashley
 Evans Log Cabin, 726 E. Force
 Annie M. Hardrick, 807 1/2 Nardo
 Ousley Hunter, 400 S. Ashley
 John Kincher, 502 Church
 Mack's Café, 404 S. Ashley
 Nelson's Café, 218 E. Branch
 Annie Paul, 1001 S. Troup
 Mattie Perkins, 107 E. Florida Ave
 Viola Porter, 303 W. Florida Ave
 Henry Prince, 724 Charlton
 Retha Ratliff, 312 Leon extd
 Edw B. Robinson, 217 S. Ashley
 Speedy Chop Shop, 407 S. Ashley
 Wm Taylor, 551 Bay
 Geo Thomas, 222 E. Branch
 Paul Thomas, 407 S. Lee
 Valdosta Lunch Room, 410 S Ashley
 Charlie Walker, 428 S. Lee
 Abel Washington, 615 West
 Henry Williams, 210 E. Branch
 Willie Wilson, 907 S. Troup
 Dartha D. Young, 419 Mill

2014 New & Renewal Memberships

* Denotes Life Membership

Place of residence listed for those outside of Lowndes County

The 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.

Robert Adair
Ft. Worth, TX
Charles Ronnie Adams
Phil H. and Cathy M. Alday
Marcia Alexander
Don and Mary Allen
Larry A. Allen, Sr.
Bill and Jennifer S. Altman
Fred and Emily S. Anderson
John and Sandra S. Anderson
Walter Altman
Edwin M. Avera
South Prince George, VA
David and Caroline Babcock
Thomas Baird
Tallahassee, FL
Chet and Myrna Ballard
Keith Barrett
John R. Bennett
Virginia P. Bennett*
Regina Davis Benvenuti
Waterford, CT
Betty Sue Mixson Bickerstaff
Jacksonville, FL
Myra Jane Bird
Tomie Jean Blanton
Vallye Blanton
Bobby Snow Boal
Atlanta, GA
Beth Stanaland Boggs
Jasper, GA
Buzz and Mary T. Bowers
Cumming, GA
James W. Brantley
Dean N. Brooks
Charles E. Bryan
Atlanta, GA
Joe Burch
St. Augustine, FL
Brad Burnette
CBJ Industries-
Clint and Jeanna Beeland
Jerry N. Byrd

Rep. Amy A. Carter
Laurie W. Carter
Jacksonville, FL
Mrs. Botie Chitty*
Cumming, GA
Ray and Pat G. Chitty
Carolyn B. Christian
Citizens Community Bank
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Clark
Joe and Ellen Clary
Geraldine M. Clifton

Brian and Laurie Colbert
Jeanette Tillman Cole
Conifer, CO
Mr. and Mrs. Lamar Cole
Buddy and Sharon Coleman
Stephen and Kay Coleman
Wade H. and Geri A. Coleman
Colony Bank of Valdosta
Commercial Banking Company
Sandra Bennett Connell
Stockton, GA
Ben I. Copeland
Lakeland, GA
Martha Powell Coppage
Orrie L. and Francine J. Coppage
Dr. and Mrs. Frank T. Corker
Covington's-
Stanley and Sue Cox
W. Ed and Mary Crane*
Paul and Sharon Cribbs
Marion Anise Cross
Sara L. Crow
James and Dorothy Cruse
Gainesville, FL

Irene D'Amatro
Jan Shelton Danis
Bethesda, MD
Bobby and Ann Dasher
Mrs. Raymond E. Dasher
Joe V. and Audrey Dasher
Laura Dasher
Rev. and Mrs. V.L. Daughtery, Jr.
Ann McGowan Davis
Roger and Carol Davis
Alpharetta, GA
William S. and Camille Davis
Tallahassee, FL
Allan and Joan Dear
Kelly and Diane Dees
Fred Deloach
John Deming*
Gulf Port, MS
Billy Dennis
Marietta, GA
Tommy and Alice DeVane
Marvin and Lyn L. Dickey
J. Michael and Martha Dover
M. A. Drumheller
Virginia Copeland Drumheller

Beverly G. Edwards
John Kent, Sr., and Vikki Edwards
Mike Esterman
Monrovia, IN

Mildred S. Evans

Ken Ferrell
Mrs. Everett Force
Curtis and Jean Fowler
Barry D. Fuller
Zella Fuller

Edna Johnson Gaines
Iuka, MS
Mr. and Mrs. David Gallahan
Patsy T. Giles
David L. Girardin
East Palatka, FL
Ransom and Celine Gladwin
Dr. Claude O. Godwin
Titusville, FL
Alan D. Golden
Suwannee, GA
Sen. Tim and Ellen Golden
Ladson and Gayle Golden
Lamar Golivesky
Norman Golivesky
Capt. Warren Graham, USN
Burke, VA
O'Neal and Faye Grant
Mary D. Gray
Mr. and Mrs. J. Glenn Gregory*
Parker and Lucy Greene
Mrs. Mack V. Greer, Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. Archie Griffin
Joanne W. Griner
Mildred B. Griner
McDonough, GA
Bill and Linda L. Grondahl
Marian Godwin Gulliver
Anne Moore Gunter

Carolyn Blecha Hall
Vallejo, CA
James W. Hall, Jr.
Joe Hall
Robert M. and Sandra L. Hall
Thomas D. and Dixie L. Haller
Mr. and Mrs. George Harrington
Owen and Nelda Harris
Edward Hart
Dallas, TX
Judge George and Lilla Kate Hart
Dr. George and Nancy Hart
Macon, GA
Redden and Judy Hart
William R. Hart
Emory G. Hatcher
Denver, CO
Robert and Kim Hatton
Cheryl V. Helms
Beulah E. Hennly
Susan Hellstern & Daniel Hoffman
C. Ed and Rita Hightower
Frank and Nancy P. Hjort
Davis Hobbs
Brunswick, GA
Cooley and Debbie Taylor Hobdy
Betty H. Holcombe

Bruce Darby Hornbuckle
Kennesaw, GA
 Eleanor M. Howard
 Riley and Jenny B. Howard
 Dr. and Mrs. Leonard R. Howell, Jr.
 Norman and Mary June Huggins
 Jeff W. Hunt
 Ginny Bridges Ireland
Dalton, GA
 Ron Irwin
 Brantley and Barbara Jenkins
 Buford Joiner
Atlanta, GA
 Dr. Jerah Johnson
New Orleans, LA
 Greg L. Johnston
Houston, TX
 Dr. Joe Kirbo
 Sally S. Kurrie
 Ann Kirby Lackey
 Margaret E. Langdale
 Margaret Jones Langdale
 Noah Michael Langdale*
Atlanta, GA
 Virginia M. Langdale
 Bill Lastinger
 John B. and Lamb Lastinger
 Loudelle Laws
 Joan Lawson
 Hank, Claire & Anna Lee
 Laura Leonard
 Susan Leonard
 Bobbie W. Lester
 Esther Paine Lifsey
Atlanta, GA
 Malcolm H. Liles
Nashville, TN
 Pat Griffin Lindenmeyer
Summerville, SC
 Albert and Jane Little
 Pendleton Little
 Verna Faye Guess Lord
Ivey, GA
 John and Ann Lukens
 Julie Lumsden
Ashburn, GA
 Mary Young S. Manning
 Drs. Dennis and Patricia Marks
 Dr. William and Zan Martin
 Joy Shelton Matthews
Alpharetta, GA
 Sis West May*
 Searcy and Helen McClure
 Gretchen B. McCoy
 Earle S. McKey, III
 James McKinney
 Judge and Mrs. Arthur McLane
 Mr. and Mrs. Tyson McLane
 W. Paul and Brinkley McNeal
 Carol McLeod
 Mary W. McRee*
Lanier Co., GA

John and Ginna McTier
 Miller Hardware-
 Dutton Miller
 Charles Mixson Miller
Birmingham, AL
 Seab H. Miller
 Jo Minchew
Jacksonville, FL
 Floyd and Ann Moon
 Betty Vickers Mooney
Alpharetta, GA
 Jesse F. Moore
Alexandria, VA
 Leland S. Moore, Jr.
 Clay Moseley
 Bobbie T. Mullis
 Jay and Connie Mullis
Birmingham, AL
 Mark Mullis
 Allan and Debbie H. Nagy
 Walter and Liza Newsome
 Dorothy P. Neisen
 Margaret M. Nisbet*
 Rebecca Anne Odom
 Marjorie D. Officer
 Catherine M. Oliver
Roswell, GA
 Jack and Cheryl Oliver
 Dr. and Mrs. William Oliver
Macon, GA
 Stephen T. Paine
New York, NY
 Steve and Cathy Pannell
Orange, TX
 Keven Parks
 Delores M. Parrish
 James W. Parrish
Tallahassee, FL
 Laura C. Pearlman*
 Scott and Jan P. Pearlman
Atlanta, GA
 Catherine Pendleton
 Helen F. Pendleton
 James J. Perryman
 Mr. and Mrs. William Pinkston
Atlanta, GA
 Allison Altman Prairie
 Larry and Shirley Price
Albany, GA
 Dr. Bill and Sally Querin
 Bonnie M. Rainey
 Anita Reams*
 Catherine L. Redles
 Shirley Register
 Linda Beggs Rehberg
Jacksonville, FL
 Emily Freeman Reilly
Orange Beach, AL
 Lane and Eve Renfroe
 Ken and Electa Rickett
 Dr. Barney and Pamela Rickman
 Dr. Paul Riggs

Andrew P. Robinson
 Larry Rodgers
 Nell Patton Roquemore
Lakeland, GA
 F. H. Scarborough, Jr.
 Nancy Schmoe
Quitman, GA
 Barbara Schmader
 Charlene B. Scholey
Menifée, CA
 Billy and Betty M. Schroer
Marietta, GA
 Allen Scott
Palm Springs, CA
 SCV-Col. Edmund Atkinson Camp
 Mrs. Burton Sheffield
Pittsford, NY
 Charles and Jean W. Sheffield
 Anita Hatcher Shelton*
 Davy and Susan Shelton
 Jane Twitty Shelton*
 Lynn Shelton
 Richard and Jane Shelton
 Edith V. Shepherd
 Susan E. Shingler
 John T. Sineath
 Rose Marie Sinnott
 Clint and Barbara Slocumb
 Albert Slone
 Ben and Carol Smith
Pinetta, FL
 Dr. Briggs H. and Lane W. Smith
 Carl L. and Laura Smith
 Marie Converse Smith
 Mitchell Smith
 Morris Smith
 Russell Martin Smith
 Tildon W. Smith
 Tony Smith*
Catersville, GA
 Ben and Jane Stanaland
 Kathryn Burgsteiner Stevens
Fenandina Beach, FL
 Sue Deming Stewart*
Jackson, MS
 Susan Wade Stewart
 Wesley and Julie S. Street
 Dr. Joe and Matilda Stubbs
 Jan Sumner
 John and Kate C. Swiderski
 Stephen Taylor
Elbridge, NY
 Lynn E. Thomas
 W. Troy Tolbert
 Dr. Joseph A. Tomberlin
 Lucy Tomberlin
 Elwood and Lessie Tomlinson
 F. D. and Liz Toth
 Dr. and Mrs. Loyce Turner*
 Susan Parramore Turner
Powder Springs, GA

The “Dixie Boys” remained at Screven for three or four months before being ordered to Savannah. Upon arriving at Savannah the company was attached to a brigade commanded by Brigadier- General Harrison, now the commander-in-chief of the United Confederate Veterans. From Savannah they were sent to Virginia.

However, while the company was in Savannah, my father was stricken with pneumonia, and came near death’s door. While he was desperately ill Captain Bryan and other friends secured for him an honorable discharge from the Confederate service and he was put aboard the train and sent home to Thomasville. My older brother, about 12 years of age, met the train with a carriage and brought him home. His illness continued for many weeks, and when he was sufficiently convalescent to undertake any kind of work his friends secured him a position with the railroad as a section-master.

The names of these men are mentioned with pride: Judge H.A. Hansell, J.R. Alexander, and J.H. Merrill, Hons. J. L. Seward and A.T. MacIntire. These gentlemen saw that he was unfit for further military service, and secured the place for him in full knowledge that he knew nothing about the job he was to fill. Yet, if he could succeed in filling the place satisfactorily, it would keep him out of the army, which he greatly desired.

The Confederate government began, in order to maintain the army, to commandeer great stores of provisions. Food began to get scarce and notwithstanding the farmers planted large grain crops and increased their meat supply, hunger began to be felt throughout the entire south. People who had been raised in affluen[ce], accustomed to everything to eat that the heart could wish, were forced to [subsist] on food that theretofore they would have been disdained to touch.

Many substitutes were improvised. For coffee many concoctions were put to use; cereal coffee, now patented under the name of Postum, was well-known and used. Wheat-flour, in South Georgia, was rarely seen on the tables. The meat supply was the worst feature of the situation, although much flesh came into use that had been considered unpalatable. Meatless and Wheatless days became the rule rather than the exception.

Salt was difficult to obtain; a supply was secured in different ways, but the greater portion was obtained by boiling briny water of the ocean or gulf in syrup kettles. Some people establish salt camps, near the ocean and gulf, and made the manufacture of salt a business. They had to be careful so as not to be detected by enemy gunboats patrolling the coast and on the outlook to detect and destroy their camps. Some camps were destroyed only to be rebuilt after the enemy was out of the way.

Clothing was scarce: what the people wore was manufactured at home, going patiently through the tedious process from growing, picking, and ginning the cotton to carding, spinning and weaving into cloth, and then converting cloth to clothes. The cloth was a coarse fabric, some of it woven in solid colors (white, blue, brown and copperas) and some in stripes. The striped goods were used for the dresses worn by mothers and daughters of the Confederacy. They were as proud of them as if they were made of the finest silks and satins.

The dyes used were secured- blue from the indigo wood, black and brown from dogwood bark and black walnut,

light brown from a powder known as “Spanish Brown,” and a dingy yellow from copperas

The few shoes that were worn were made from leather tanned at home by a very slow process. The hair was gotten off by soaking in lime water for several days. The hair off, the hides were soaked in an ooze made from water in which white oak or hickory bark had been boiled. The ooze was changed weekly and when the change was being made the hide was put through a currying process. It took sixty to ninety days to tan a hide under this process, although twice this time would have made the leather better.

From this the reader will readily discover that every Southern home in those days were busy manufacturing centers, as each had to provide for its own.”

Pearson Tribune, Friday, October 25, 1918 Memories of The Long Ago

People Ate What They Could Get and Were Content

“Mention was made last week to the scarcity of food during the Sixties, especially of meat and the eating of the eating of flesh theretofore considered unwholesome. Many things were used for food that would be scoffed at by this generation. No, they did not eat any horse, mule and dog flesh as they were doing in Germany and other countries of Europe during this terrible war [WW1, 1914-1919]. The South used their farm stock for farming, growing breadstuffs and cotton to feed and clothe the people.

They did eat their bear steak, alligator steak, turtle steak, all manner of turtle and fish flesh. The people ate these improvised dishes with relish and were content.

Some of these dishes were made the bases of practical jokes, one of which was called to mind: Did you ever eat “gopher hash?” It’s fine; superior to the best beef hash. But when dainty epicurean contemplates the source of the flesh of which it is made they naturally tilt their noses and refuse to taste it. Once tasted, however, the palate is tickled with something that is really splendid, and the taster is ready to admit its superiority.

And why not? The gopher feeds on nothing, but grass and herbs, the same as cattle, hogs, sheep and goats. Why shouldn’t its flesh be different?

During the summer of 1864, father’s sister and a Mrs. Hooker, from the hog-producing county of Brooks, where real want was unknown, visited our family at Johnston Station, now Ludowici. The superiority of “gopher hash” was discussed. The ladies declared they could not be fooled into eating it.

The dish had been introduced into our family by Aunt Dorcas, a “Geechee” negro cook, together with other war time

dishes, and we had learned to be fond of it.

During the visit of the ladies an older brother, Sam, captured a big fat gopher and, despite all protestations from mother, had Aunt Dorcas to privately prepare and serve it for dinner in her most approved style. Nothing was said about it during the meal and both ladies helped themselves the second time to "gopher hash."

During the afternoon brother Sam ventured to ask the ladies how they liked the "gopher hash!" Both insisted they had eaten none, that is was beef hash they had eaten. To convince them Aunt Dorcas was called as a witness.

The ladies discovered that a practical joke had been played on them, but frankly admitted that it was a superior hash and that their prejudices would not be in the way of their eating it again.

Another war time dish introduced upon our table was made of salted pork, rice and field peas, seasoned according to Aunt Dorcas' whims, all cooked together for about three or four hours. It was exceedingly appetizing and bore the euphonious title of "Hopping John."

Still another was "Smothered Fish." The method of preparing this dish is between a stew and a bake, with no fat used except that of the fish. The absence of lard in the pantry suggested this method of preparing fish for the table. It was an excellent substitute for fried fish and no apologies were necessary.

Aunt Dorcas got our tag one day when she placed before us a dish of "Poke Greens." We ate some of them that day, but the second dish never appeared. The line was drawn on them.

The "Potato Bread" of which so much has been said and printed since Herbert Hoover has limited wheat flour supply, was one of Aunt Dorcas' favorite breadstuffs. Corn meal and sweet potatoes, boiled until soft enough to rub through a sieve, in equal parts were mixed together and baked. It was relished as a change from the plain corn bread.

Many other dishes now suggested to the people were known and used by people in those days, but these [are] sufficient to show that the people were content to eat just what they could get and not growl or turn up their noses."

Museum Exhibit Opening

Valdosta & the Civil War: Changes in Local Life

also

Military & Civilian Textiles & Artifacts.

Special Exhibit: T. A. Faries Collection

Monday, April 28 4 p.m. until 7 p.m.

**Re-enactors Campsite at the Opening
Refreshments**

Benjamin T. Allen, 1852 to 1932 Writer of the 1918 Articles On Remembering Civil War Times

Late in his life B. T. Allen recorded memories of many different aspects of south Georgia history. During this time he was editor of the *Pearson Tribune*. His life experiences placed him in several south Georgia towns. I first came across his articles in the Judge Folks Huxford Collections at The Huxford-Spear Genealogical Library in Homerville. Judge Huxford had preserved many original issues of B. T. Allen's newspapers.

B.T. Allen wrote articles with information that you can hardly find elsewhere. He wrote of Valdosta's first baseball team in 1875 giving information on each player. He was on this team. He wrote of early south Georgia newspapers giving information not known. He has an article on Reconstruction in Valdosta. There are also articles on other towns, all about which I do not know.

The family was living in Thomasville at the outbreak of war. He was attending the Fletcher school and wrote that he was on the first train to ever leave Thomasville. It took the school boys a few miles out from town for a picnic.

As the 1860 census states, and the first article in this newsletter, the family was living in Thomasville at the beginning of the Civil War. It seems evident that his father's eventual work as a railroad supervisor in Civil War had them living in Johnston's Station, now Ludowici, as told in the second story. The 1870 census shows the Allen family living in Valdosta. B. T. Allen was 18 with his occupation listed as typesetter. His father is listed as railroad overseer. In later writings B.T. Allen mentions his experience with the Pendleton's and the Valdosta newspaper. In the 1880 census he is living in Quitman and is listed as a printer. In the 1900 and after censuses he is living Pearson, Georgia with the occupation showing lawyer or lawyer/editor.

B.T. Allen did a favor for south Georgia history when writing his recollections of various topics from the 1860s and 70s.

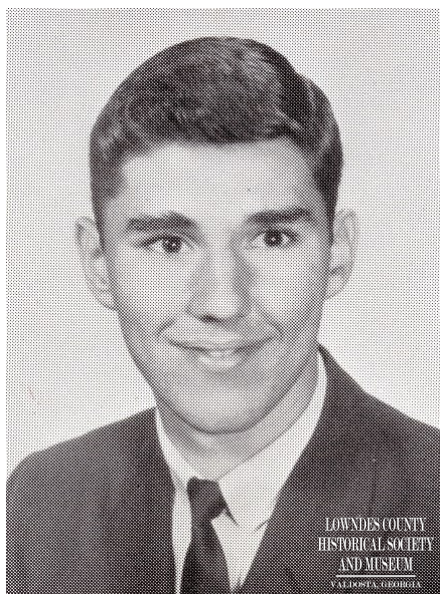


Georgia Day Program at the Museum

Above: Jerry West, president of the General James Jackson Chapter, NSDAR and J. H. 'Sandy' Sanders, Executive Director of the Lakeland/Lanier County Chamber of Commerce, Lanier County Development Authority and President of the Lanier County Historical Society. On February 12, Georgia Day, he gave an interesting program on Highway 37, Georgia Grown Trail. These trails promote Agritourism in hands-on and historical perspectives. A trail is also being conceptualized for U.S. 41 from Warner Robins south to the Florida line.

Class Reunions To Include Museum Visit: VHS '69 45th VHS Class of 1964 Grand 50th

2014 Memberships continued



Above: Lyn McIntosh and Molly Huckaby Hardee, both members of the VHS Class of 1964. Having reunions the same weekend, the VHS classes of 1964 and 1969 have the museum as an event option for Saturday morning April 26. A museum exhibit tells the stories of Lyn McIntosh dying in the 1980 failed attempt to rescue the hostages that terrorists held in U.S. embassy in Tehran, Iran; and Molly Hardee dying in the 1998 U.S. embassy compound bombing in Nairobi, Kenya. Many national and international events can be presented here from a local history perspective. The bombings when Molly Hardee died brought to public the names Osama bin Laden and Al-Qaeda. Lyn's son Scott hopes to join us at the museum.

Both groups will enjoy Ocean Pond on different nights and both have the Converse-Dalton-Ferrell House available for tour Saturday. This house, nor any of downtown,

was restored when many in these classes left Valdosta. Both VHS classes have a member descendant of the Converse-Dalton-Ferrell House: 1964, Lynn Thomas and 1969, Jane Ferrell Burgsteiner. Contact information for both of these reunions is available at the museum.

At bottom left is Elizabeth Dean Heller of Lake Placid, Florida. She came by the museum March 21, when in town for her VHS Class of 1954 60th Reunion. She had heard that several Lane family items had been donated to the museum. She descends from Augustus Harding Lane, great-grandfather, who rose to the rank of captain during the Civil War. On display for our upcoming exhibit, "Valdosta and the Civil War" is the 1860 version portable folding bed that Augustus Lane took with him to war. This was allowed for officers. The interesting construction of the bed includes metal eye-lets to hold sticks upright to support mosquito netting. She also told that her grandmother Ida Lane married Milton Boyd. We also have



china sold in Boyd's Store in the museum. She looked at class items while here. We have all ten issues of the *Dosta Outlook* newspaper for her senior year, but few from her earlier years. She took a list to solicit missing issues for us. Her class was also going to Ocean Pond. They chose for a Saturday Brunch.

Valdosta Wildcat Museum
Varn Turpentine & Cattle Co.
Jacksonville, FL
Robert Rouse Vallotton II

Deanna Wagoner
Alfred C. 'Dick' Walden
Byron, GA
Buddy and Analease Walker
Dorothy Noell Walker
Columbia, SC
Mr. and Mrs. David S. Waller
L. Steve Wansley
Sam T. Ward
Riverside, CA
Dr. and Mrs. Fred Ware, Jr.
C. Wilbur Warner
Atlanta, GA

Dr. Mary Helen Watson
Lavelle and Lyndal Webb
Melba R. Weldon
H. Reaves and Amy West
Gwynedd Valley, PA
Hugh H. and Jerry West
Marjorie Noell West
Washington, DC
James and Susan Eye Wheeler
Jackie N. Wiggins
Frank C. Williams
Wetumpka, AL
J. Edward Willis
Mark and Carol C. Wisenbaker
Dr. Owen and Joanne Youles



Above: Premier Volunteer Claudia Collins Mullis

Claudia Mullis has been a blessing to the museum. When she taught at Georgia Military College she prepared a study of items in the museum as part of her students' activities. She now is chiefly helping Amy Brown prepare our textiles and textile information for our website. Above she is on a special task preparing a mannequin for our upcoming Civil War Era exhibit. The Dress Barn Shop in Lake Park recently donated the female mannequins and Amy Brown studied techniques to make some of them smaller and to adapt others for male clothing.

MEMORIALS

Dr. Hugh Coleman Bailey

by
Allan and Joan Dear

Helen Pafford Bennett

by
Allan and Joan Dear

Ann Ward Cork

Robert L. Cork

by
Beulah E. Hennly
Earle S. McKey, III

Virginia Hutchinson Culpepper

by
Stan and Sue Cox
Donald O. Davis
Earle S. McKey, III
J. Edward Willis

Raymond E. Dasher

by
J. Edward Willis

Elder Robert 'Bob' Glenn Dickerson, Jr.

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

Ramon A. 'Rip' Gish

by
J. Edward Willis

Betty Phillips Googe

by
Sally Shingler Kurrie

John J. Langdale, Jr.

by
J. Edward Willis

Latrell Vickery Locher

by
The Withlacoochee Quilt Guild

Everett Daniel Odom, Sr.

Rebecca Caldwell Odom

by
Beulah E. Hennly

Rebecca Caldwell Odom

by
Elizabeth Caldwell Panek
Westlake, OH
Sally Shingler Kurrie

James Stephen Oliver

by
Beulah E. Hennly

Adair Myddelton Nunnally Pizer

by
Allan and Joan Dear

Dr. Malcolm F. Rainey

by
Allan and Joan Dear
Beulah E. Hennly

John Calvin 'J. C.' Sheffield

By
H. Daniel and Linda E. Douglas
Dunnellon, FL
Mildred S. Evans
Harry S. Evans

Edwina 'Bootsie' Roberts Smotherman

by
John and Sandra Anderson
Capt. Warren C. and Nancy Graham
Burke, VA
Sallie Shingler Kurrie
Rev. and Mrs William Oliver
Macon, GA
Stephen T. Paine
New York, NY
Anne Paine West
Alexandria, VA
Charles E. and Jean W. Sheffield
Joe Glenn and Marie C. Smith
Dr. and Mrs. Kearfott M. Stone
Gloucester, VA

Bob R. Taylor, Sr.

By
Donald O. Davis
H. Daniel and Linda E. Douglas
Dunnellon, FL
Mildred S. Evans
Harry S. Evans

Jane Burr Rogers Willis

by
John and Sandra Anderson
Stan and Sue Cox
Allan and Joan Dear
Duane and Anne B. Dodson
Panama City Beach, FL
Beulah E. Hennly
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P.O. Box 56
Valdosta, GA 31603

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Membership Category

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

MUSEUM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 19 Closed for Easter Weekend
April 26..... VHS Classes of 1964 and 1969
April 28..... Valdosta and the Civil War, Exhibit Opening

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, and Anita Shelton

Lowndes County Historical Society & Museum

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Web page:
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YESTERDAY & TODAY

Newsletter of
Lowndes County Historical Society

Newsletter Editor
Donald O. Davis

Museum Staff
Donald O. Davis
Executive Director.
Amy Brown
Textiles and Research.
Hannah Parker
Harry S. Evans
Special Collections and Research
Adam Doughty
Drew Johnson
Social Media

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