

## Tommy Tart Speaks on:

## *North Florida and South Georgia Heroes of WWII*

Tommy Tart gave a superb program at the museum on Saturday, February 5 on South Georgia and North Florida Heroes of WWII. His slideshow with audio and video included pinnacle events of the war with the sounds and voices of the era.

He covered many people with an emphasis on hero pilot Colin P. Kelley, Madison, Florida and Sgt. E.I. 'Boots' Thomas of Monticello, Florida, who raised the first flag on Iwo Jima. On Iwo Jima, Thomas and group raised the first flag on Mount Suribachi during the morning. It was determined that the first flag could not be easily seen from the beachhead so men under his command raised the larger second flag. The photograph of this second raising is the most well known image of WWII. Tart covered many fascinating aspects of Iwo Jima.

**Above:** Tommy Tart fields questions after his presentation. At top right in the WWII exhibit in the background is a B29 aircraft model assembled by the late Dr. Lloyd Burns. Tart's lecture included information on Burns.

Perhaps Tommy Tart's greatest motivation in his WWII studies is for Colin P. Kelley to receive a posthumous Congressional Medal of Honor. Kelly lost his life heroically saving others. Many support this project and Florida U. S. Senator Bob Nelson has been working with the group. A few years ago past historical society



**Above** are Jane Herndon, Betty Bazemore and David Tart. During the program Tommy Tart mentioned about Lloyd Burns being the youngest combat pilot in WWII, flying missions over Europe at age 19. After the program Betty Bazemore told Tommy that Lloyd Burns was Wright's [Bazemore] first quarterback at Valdosta High. This was in 1940 before WWII. Tommy was glad to hear this as Bazemore had been his football coach from 1957-60, two championships.

President Ed Willis conceptualized naming the highway between Valdosta and Madison for Colin P. Kelly and was successful in this endeavor.

Tommy Tart's parents were Henry and Lib Tart. His father had Tart Coopers in Jacksonville, Valdosta and Pensacola. They moved to Valdosta when Tommy was a child.

Tommy graduated from

VHS in 1961 receiving a football scholarship to the University of Florida. His activities at the UofF led him to be named to the schools Hall of Fame as a student. He recently retired as general counsel for Florida Power and Light in Orlando. He is one of the few civilians to attend the Army War College and has visited all major European WWII battle sites.

Tart recognized local veteran, Elwood Tomlinson, as a frogman in WWII, now Navy Seals, and told of their National Museum in Fort Pierce, Florida.



Colin P. Kelley



## 1961 Classmates Attend, Anticipate 50th Year Reunion



**Above:** Sandra Sessions Anderson, John Anderson and Loudelle Laws were among Tommy Tart's VHS classmates attending. Their 50th year high school reunion is March 25 and 26. A museum visit is included as an option on Saturday. Pertinent items will be pulled from the archives and the Valdosta Sesquicentennial PowerPoint will run for possible viewing.

As a side note, we mention that the solid library chairs upstairs in the museum were donated by Loudelle and her sister Brinkley Laws McNeal in memory of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Laws. The lectern/public address system down stairs was donated in memory of Becky Shelton Allen, also a member of this class by her mother, Anita Hatcher Shelton, and family.



**Above:** Billy and Linda Lastinger Grondahl. Billy's late brother, Robert, and Tommy Tart were in the same high school class and 1960 State Champion football teammates.



**Above:** Joey Farmer and Pam Rickman. Pam Rickman encouraged her 8th grade history students from St. John's Catholic School to attend the presentation. Among those attending were Farmer's children.

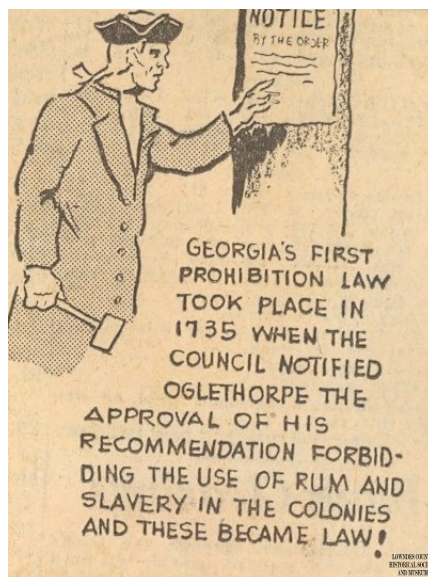
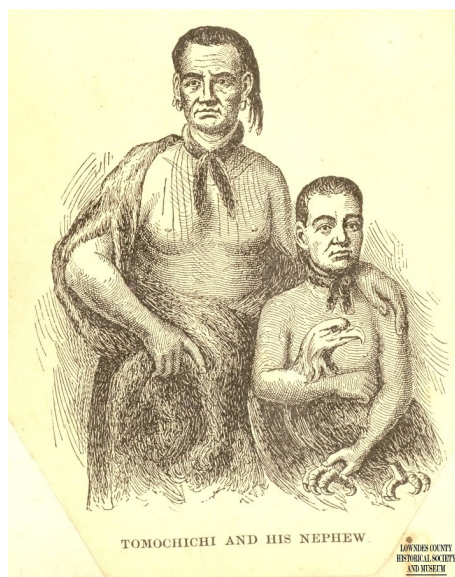


**Above:** Tim Tart, Tommy's younger brother and Dean Nichols Brooks. Tim first made us aware of Tommy's research and presentation concerning WWII heroes of our region.

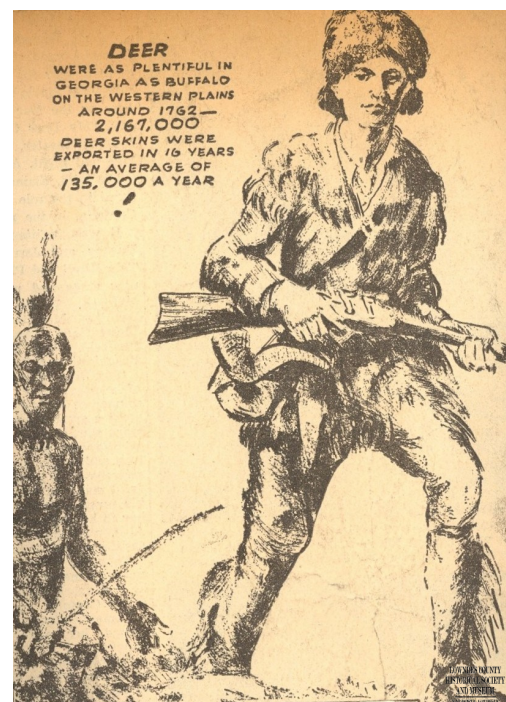


**Above:** First cousins Bob Hall and Jenny Beck Howard. Jenny's father James M. Beck was in the local decorated soldiers WWII slideshow. Bob is a contemporary of and longtime Tommy Tart friend.





## Georgia Day Observed At Function



**Above and right:** A PowerPoint slide show ran from the projector preceding Tommy Tart's presentation. Over 100 images were scanned exclusively using the Parramore Family Georgia Scrapbooks which are in the museum archives. These scrapbooks were assembled from 1938 to 1942. The images shown in this newsletter represent only a few of the many in the scrapbooks pertaining to Spanish settlements, English colonial and early statehood Georgia. The fascinating, extensive scrapbooks cover much more other Georgia information beyond the Georgia Day topics.



**Left:** The General James Jackson Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, were co-sponsors of the events at the museum. DAR members attending included: Ann Huxford, Doreen Officer, Zella Fuller, Kathryn Stephens, Lilla Kate Hart, Beulah Hennly, chapter regent, Pam Officer, Jerry West, Jane Ferrell, Geraldine Clifton and De-lores Parrish.

The chapter provided plenty of refreshments for the well attended function.

## Local WWII decorated soldiers also featured

Pictured at right are Jane Ferrell Burgsteiner, Jane Ferrell and Jerry West, immediate past regent of the James Jackson Chapter NSDAR. Ed Willis had museum staffers Adam Doughty and Drew Johnson prepare a presentation that began several minutes after Tommy Tart's presentation. The program was adapted from the earlier museum WWII PowerPoint. Script was added to the presentation explaining soldiers experience and duties in WWII. It specifically covered local WWII medal award-ees. The two Janes came especially as Jane Burgsteiner's late father-in-law, Will D. Burgsteiner, received the Silver Star and an Ace pilot in WWII, was in the program.







Tart and Wiggins



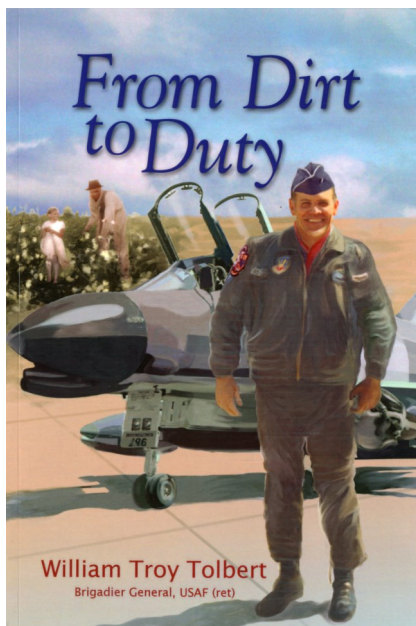
Blocker and Paulk



Christian, Valiket and Tart



**Above:** Retired General and former Commander of Moody Air Force Base Troy Tolbert came to the Tart lecture. His book, *From Dirt to Duty*, cover below, includes the story of his tours of duty in Vietnam. As a local author, his book cover is in the exhibit.



**Above:** Several World War II veterans were in attendance for the Tommy Tart presentation. **Above left:** Rev. David Tart, brother of Tommy Tart and Pastor of Visitation at Park Avenue United Methodist Church, visits with John Wiggins a WWII veteran. **Center:** Earl Blocker, WWII vet, and Ginger Schroer Paulk watch the presentation. Earl Blocker donated a photograph and article on his experience participating in the D-Day landing at Normandy. **Left:** Rev. David Tart clasps WWII vet Frank Christian's hand in thanks for his WWII service. At center is Craig Valiket, a Viet Nam vet who has items on display in the new Viet Nam War exhibit at the museum.

## Vietnam War Era exhibit begins

The museum staff had long discussed the need to have information on the Vietnam War era on exhibit. A visit by a tourist, Donald (Don) Lee Holliday, **right**, of Alexandria, Indiana expedited this matter. Don's ancestral Holiday family was from North Carolina and it is told in his family that several generations back they have a common progenitor with Doc Holliday. We told him that a few people with the surname Holliday have visited the museum and told the same story of the North Carolina connection.

Holliday had keen interest in the military exhibits in the museum and noticed no Vietnam information. After discussion he said that he had items he could donate for display. He was an advisor to the field police and medic in Vietnam. His collection includes Montagnard tribe bow and arrows, Viet Cong, North Vietnamese, South Vietnamese and U.S. military items. The exhibit was prepared by museum staff, Amy Brown with Drew Johnson and Adam Doughty.

The exhibit includes those from Lowndes County who died in the Vietnam War. We have photos of: Horace A. Hampton, Oliver Kenneth "Ken" Webb, Ronald Strobo, Marvin B. "Tex" Mullis, Jr.

We would like images of the following: Johnnie Patterson, Donald Britton Sowell, Maxie Patterson, Herbert Lee Phelps, Cleveland David Jones, Curtis Jones, John Ethridge McDonald, James Wesley Inman, Danny Lee Lightsey, Larry Leon Mitchell, Lawrence Kennett Sepulveda, Rufus Sirmans, Roy Carroll Register, Willie Lee Richardson, Arthur Lee Brunt, Eugene W. Hartman, and London Conaway.

Later this year we plan to feature the Vietnam exhibit, the Civil War Sesquicentennial exhibit by Jeremy Petrella and the Pearl Harbor 70th anniversary which Ed Willis is organizing.



Donald L. (Don) Holliday



A portion of the Vietnam War Era exhibit at the museum.





## Students from the Republic of Ghana Visit the Museum

**Photo at left:** The museum had a pleasant visit from students and faculty sponsors from Ghana. Most were from the coastal city of Sekondi-Takoradi. They were on an exchange program with J. L. Newbern and Valdosta Middle School students. They speak English with the same accent as one from Great Britain, but they managed understanding our southern accents well. After touring the museum they enjoyed the rear grounds and outdoor exhibits. Also, Donald Davis presented a PowerPoint slide show to them one evening at the Valdosta Middle School auditorium.

## Leadership Lowndes 2010

Leadership Lowndes visited the museum the morning of their Quality of Life Day last November. These photos are representative of the many attending. They were given the Valdosta Sequen- tennial slideshow presentation which concentrates on the 1890s through the 1920s., interesting years when leadership built the foundations that provided for the community's future. Then all went upstairs for the Leadership Lowndes Historic Scavenger Hunt. The photos include Matt Dorsey of Valdosta Insurance Services and Jeremy Davis of Wells Fargo Advisors. Jeremy noticed Salz-berger information as his mother's maiden name is Lastinger. Shan- non Salter is a Valdosta Police Department and Tyra Howard is Tourism and Convention Sales Manager with Conference Center and Tourism Authority. Christina Moore is Director of Public Rela- tions and Information at Wiregrass Georgia Technical College. She enjoyed finding the answer on the longleaf pine/wiregrass ecosys- tem in the scavenger hunt. All left with Coca-Cola with peanuts and the suggestion to sing *Jingle Bells* on the way to the Crescent.



Shannon Salter and Tyra Howard



Christina Moore



Matt Dorsey and Jeremy Davis



## Alpine and Pine: from Valle d'Aosta to Pine Grove:



Lavelle and Lyndal Webb



Francine Jones Coppedge



**Above:** Bill Hersch of Dallas, Texas, spent time in the museum gathering information for an Architectural Analysis of Moody AFB, 1941-1991. He is Senior Architectural Historian with the firm GMI in Plano, Texas. His master's degree is from Savannah College of Art and Design. During that time he interned at the Georgia Historical Society. He told us that we had as much "neat stuff" as the Georgia Historical Society. 1941 views of Moody were found in the Parramore family scrapbooks.

**Right:** Martha Norwood Gibson, a society trustee, recently donated an interesting item from Valdosta business history. Martha told that her mother purchased the Christmas decorated ceramic candleholder 50 to 60 years ago when the Hotel Patterson was closing. The hotel name is imprinted in the well. Martha enjoyed it in her home during many holiday seasons.



**Left:** LaVelle and Lyndal Webb are pictured presenting a plaque that recognized Mack J. (Doc) Lane as the only Vocational Agricultural teacher during the existence of Pine Grove High School, his time 1940-1960. The plaque states that he served the community in the spirit of the Future Farmers of America motto:

*Learning to do, Doing to learn  
Earning to live, Living to Serve*

Mack Lane is remembered as a teacher whose dedicated efforts made a difference in students' lives.

**Center left:** Francine Jones Coppedge is photographed in the museum in front of the Valle d'Aosta exhibit while donating a copy of the 1941 *Gum Cup*, an early in-house published yearbook of Pine Grove High School. She and her husband had visited family in Italy in December and the trip included several days in the Italian province that is our name source Valle d'Aosta. They took *Valdosta Magazine* with them. She said that she took a photograph of anything she saw that said "Valdosta." The *Gum Cup* had belonged to her sister Verdie Mae Jones (Carter). Also in the donation were two 1940 issues of the Pine Grove High School Newspaper *The Whispering Pine*.

**Left:** Francine Coppedge was not kidding when she told of photographing all 'Valdosta' name sightings. Valle d'Aosta yogurt and 100 percent VALDOSTANO milk are pictured here.



**Above:** Patrick Sullivan of Atlanta contacted the museum several times by email or phone and then came by to complete his study. The consulting firm where he is employed has been hired by the Georgia Department of Transportation to gather information on historic street railway systems in Georgia and locate remnants of such that remain. He shared information with us on the Valdosta system that we had not previously known.



## Local History tells International Events, Is there Justice for Molly?

We must record our local history and we do so here. Molly Huckaby Hardee died on August 7, 1998, from a terrorist truck bombing of the U. S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya. There was a simultaneous bombing at the U.S. Embassy in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Over 220 were killed in these bombings and reports say 4,000 more injured. These bombings brought to public the names Osama bin Laden and Al-Qaeda. Much more information can be found on the internet. Molly was brought home with her funeral service at First Baptist Church and buried at Riverview Memorial Gardens.

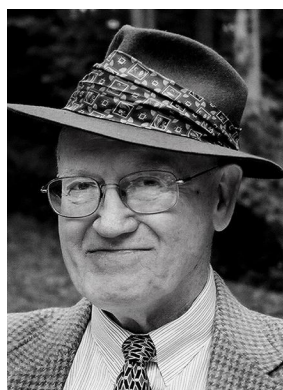
It so happened that the first civilian, rather than military, trial for a "detainee" held at Guantanamo Bay was for Ahmed Khalfan Ghailani. It took a few days to realize that this was the trial that would involve justice for Molly. Reports on November 17, 2010 stated Ghailani "in a civilian court was acquitted on Wednesday of all but one of more than 280 charges of conspiracy and murder in the 1998 terrorist bombings." Ghailani was found guilty on only one count, "conspiracy to destroy government buildings and property."

The sentencing would not be until January 25, 2011. The penalty for this one guilty count could be 20 years to life. The Associated Press article stated that Judge Lewis A. Kaplan "rejected Ghailani's pleas for leniency, saying whatever Ghailani suffered at the hands of the CIA and others 'pales in comparison to the suffering and the horror he and his confederates caused.'"

I discussed this with Buddy Walker and Hank Lee, Molly's 1964 VHS classmates. They agreed that their class would want Molly's information known. Their 1964 class lost another member to Islamic terrorism when Lyn D. McIntosh died in 1980 in the failed rescue attempt to free Americans being held hostage in the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, Iran. Lyn's services were also at First Baptist Church with burial at Sunset Hill Cemetery.



**Molly Huckaby Hardee**  
*from 1964 Sandspur  
Valdosta High yearbook*



## William H. Mobley, IV Dedication at VSU Archives

On October 1, 2010, a ceremony occurred naming the VSU Archives research area the William (Bill) Mobley, IV, Reading Room. Bill was a 1950 Valdosta High graduate and 1953 graduate of VSC. The historical society was most pleased at this designation and several society members attended the function.

Bill Mobley was a most supportive member of the Lowndes County Historical Society. He was a very longtime member and even living in Arlington, Virginia, visited the museum several times a year, almost always attended the annual dinner, always buying a full table. Being involved with the Library of Congress Surplus Book Program he supplied the museum with hundreds of books, dozens of which remain in our library, the others able to be sold to raise funds.

The VSU Library and Archives are where the surplus book donations that he could direct could have the most area impact. Odum Library Director at VSU, Dr. George Gaumond, told that Mobley was appointed as an authorized representative of the university to select surplus books from the Library of Congress and have them shipped to the Odum Library. During a 20 year period Mobley selected more than 10,000 books for VSU with an approximate value of \$750,000. He also donated more than \$90,000 worth from his own collection.

Bill worked for thirty-five years at the Library of Congress until his retirement in 2000. He edited the Woodrow Wilson and Theodore Roosevelt papers for the Presidential Papers Project. He was the Library's Principal Evaluations Officer and Curator of the Library of Congress Archives.

**Right:** Kathleen and Dr. John Lancaster, and Lou Gabard. Attendees of the Mobley dedication included past historical society president Dr. John Lancaster and wife Kathleen and Lou Gabard whose late husband Dr. Bill Gabard was a founder of the Lowndes County Historical Society.



**Above:** Robert and Helen Mobley Sauvage, and Roseanne Mobley all of Arlington, Virginia, and William H. Mobley, V, of Scottsdale, Arizona



**2011 New & Renewal Memberships**

\* Denotes Life Membership

*Place of residence listed for those outside of Lowndes County*

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Ft. Worth, TX  
George and Joyce Aigen  
Phil H. and Cathy Alday  
Don and Mary Allen  
Bill and Jennifer S. Altman  
John and Sandra Anderson  
Ed and Nancy Avera  
Petersburg, VA  
Chet and Myrna Ballard  
Quitman, GA  
Marie George Beam  
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Mr. and Mrs. Harold Bennett\*  
Bennett Law Firm  
Regena Benvenuti  
Waterford, CT  
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Myra Jane Bird  
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Mr. and Mrs. Jan L. Boal  
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Beth Stanaland Boggs,  
Jasper, GA  
Buzz and Mary T. Bowers  
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J. Converse and Jill Bright  
Dean Brooks  
Ralph and Hilda Brown  
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Atlanta, GA  
CMSgt. Paul D. and Sherri Burgess  
Joshua Butler  
Hartsfield, GA  
Doug and Amy Carter  
Dr. and Mrs. Carl Cates  
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ClieTel, Inc.  
Geraldine Clifton  
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Jeanette Tillman Cole  
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Ben Copeland  
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Joe V. and Audrey Dasher  
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Allen Co. Public Library  
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E. Palatka, FL  
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Dr. Jerah Johnson  
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Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Willis

### G. Robert Carter

by  
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Barneta O. Davis  
Donald O. Davis  
Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Willis

### Marvin B. Mullis, Sr.

by  
Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Willis

### Helen Smith Purdy

by  
Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Willis  
Susie McKey Thomas  
Patsy T. Giles  
Barneta O. Davis  
Donald O. Davis

### Lois Barton Houston

by  
Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Willis

### Doris Griner Scruggs

by  
Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Willis

### Annual Membership Application Lowndes County Historical Society

P. O. Box 56  
Valdosta, GA 31603-0056

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Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone/Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Category

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



## MUSEUM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>Civil War Exhibits</b>	<b>Ongoing changing exhibits during the Civil War Sesquicentennial, 2011-2015, by Jeremy Petrella</b>
<b>March 17</b>	<b>Program at Berrien County Historical Society</b>
<b>March 26</b>	<b>Valdosta High Class of 1961</b>
<b>April 18</b>	<b>Learning in Retirement at the Museum, Ladies Hat Fashions In Valdosta History, by Amy Brown</b>
<b>April 23</b>	<b>Saturday Closure, Easter Weekend</b>
<b>May 30</b>	<b>Museum Closed for Memorial Day</b>

### Officers and Executive Committee

**President, Patsy T. Giles; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, H. Lamar Cole; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Martha N. Gibson; Secretary, Joseph Tomberlin; Treasurer, Redden Hart; Past President, Julie Smith; Mary McRee, Anita Shelton, and Susie Thomas**

### Lowndes County Historical Society & Museum

305 West Central Avenue  
P.O. Box 56 Valdosta, GA 31603  
(229) 247-4780  
Fax: (229) 247-2840

E-mail: [history@valdostamuseum.org](mailto:history@valdostamuseum.org) or [ddavis.lchs@gmail.com](mailto:ddavis.lchs@gmail.com)

Web page:

## 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.

J. Adam Doughty  
Andrew W. Johnson

### YESTERDAY & TODAY

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