



Georgia Day Program Featured a New Book: **Lowndes County, Georgia Deed Record A and Early Tax Digests, 1825-1860**

On February 9, 2017 the Lowndes County Historical Society and the James Jackson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution held their annual co-sponsored program recognizing Georgia Day at the museum. Georgia Day commemorates February 12, 1733, the day when Oglethorpe landed at the site that became Savannah, thus beginning the colony of Georgia.

Ed Hightower, Jr., presented a program on his recently published book, **Lowndes County, Georgia; Deed Record A and Early Tax Digests; 1825-1860**. These early surviving records that he transcribed are of significant value to researchers because courthouse fires destroyed most early Lowndes records.

Below is the segment of the *Introduction* to the book where he explains the rerecorded entries in Deed Record A. It is followed by a portion of Hightower's explanation of the Tax Digests.

Ed Hightower "The original Deed records of Lowndes County, Georgia were destroyed by fire in the Courthouse at Troupville in 1858. The records destroyed were contained in original Books A through F. After the fire property owners who had maintained personal copies of their deeds returned to the Clerk of the Superior Court of Lowndes County to have their documents again legally recorded. In most cases when these personal copies were again entered into record mention was made of the original recording date as well as the original book and page number. Within these transcribed documents the reader will therefore find mention of the original recording details followed by the new date of recording.

For example:

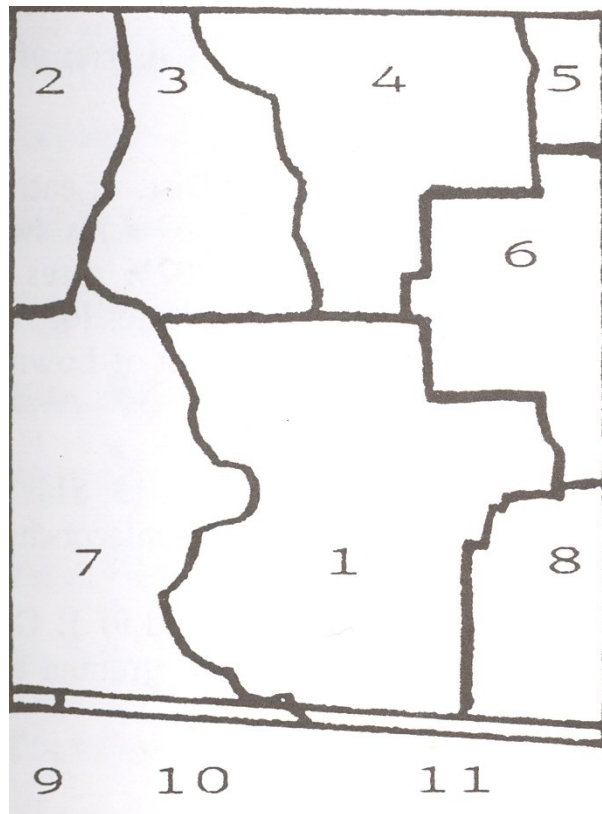
Page 75. June 24, 1837. State of Georgia Lowndes County. A Deed. James D. Shanks to W.H Rogers. \$100. 490 acres more or less. Lot number two in the general plan of the fifteenth district of Irwin now Lowndes County. Signed James D. Shanks LS Witness Jared Johnson, John J. Henderson J.I.C.

Georgia Lowndes County. Clerk's Office Superior Court. Recorded in Book D page 370 this 5th Nov. 1850 Duncan Smith Clk

Recorded this 12th August 1858 D.W. McRae Clk

In the above example a Deed between James D. Shanks and W.H. Rogers was entered into on June 24, 1837 in Lowndes County, Georgia. One hundred dollars was paid to James D. Shanks by W.H. Rogers for 490 acres of land in the 15th District of Lowndes

Continued on page 2



Above: Original Lowndes Became Territory in Eleven Counties

The map shows the current county boundaries within the territory of original 1825 Lowndes. The early Tax Digests—1830, 1834, 1835, 1838, 1840 and 1844—include this entire area. Most Georgia counties broke off from 1856 to 1858 with the Florida strip about 1870, excepting Lanier in 1920. The rerecorded deeds in the book mainly include only current Lowndes County as other deeds would have been rerecorded in the newly formed counties.

The counties are: 1. Lowndes, 2. Colquitt, 3. Cook, 4. Berrien, 5. Atkinson, 6. Lanier, 7. Brooks, 8. Echols, and now Florida, 9. Jefferson, 10. Madison and 11. Hamilton.

Note: The only area where the original Lowndes boundary continues as boundary is the eastern border of Lanier County. This same Lanier/ Clinch County border is also the only existing remnant of the line between the earliest giant south Georgia counties, Irwin and Appling, both charted in 1818.

The first census of the above area was as Irwin County in 1820. The population in the current Lowndes area was "zero."

County and more specifically Lot number two. This Deed was originally recorded at Troupville on November 5, 1850 in Book D page 370. The County Clerk at the time was Duncan Smith. Book D and other records were destroyed when the County Courthouse at Troupville burned in 1858. Due to the fire W.H. Rogers or someone who had an interest in this land, brought their copy of this deed to the Clerk of the Superior Court of Lowndes County to have same again entered into official record. This was done on August 12, 1858 by the Clerk at time namely D.W. McRae. The above record now appears in Lowndes County, Georgia, Deed Record A, page 75.

The deed information you will find in this book has been transcribed from current Deed Record A of Lowndes County, Georgia. This record is available at the Lowndes County, Georgia courthouse in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court. An effort was made to present all critical information with accuracy and genealogy as the primary goals. Rather than adopt a set format for transcribing each document the transcriber opted to present the flow of information as it occurs in each record. The spelling of names, places, and other words has been maintained as they were found in each document."

Tax Digest Information from the Introduction

"The earliest complete and existing property tax records for Lowndes County Georgia are for the years 1830, 1834, 1838, 1840 and 1844. The property tax records for these years have slightly different formats and headings for the information provided. The name of the taxpayer, the district of residence within the County, the number of polls paid, the number of slaves owned, the number of acres owned and the county, district and lot number where those acres were situated are however common to each year. Tax districts for the years presented were named for the captains of militia in each area of the county at the time taxes were collected. The data and taxes collected were consolidated by the receiver of taxes for the county and reported to the state government. " end



At left: DAR member Lilla Kate Hart brought a birthday cake for her cousin Catherine Redles festooned with historic camelias originating from the Roberts House grounds.

At right: DAR members Barbara Slocumb, Lake Park, and Patsy Skipper, Lakeland, view an 1897 Converse family home school newspaper named *The Quintet*, that Converse Bright donated after the program.



An 1825 Troup Signed Deed in our Archives

Ed Hightower's activity concerning early deeds prompted our taking notice of the details in some early deeds in the museum archives. The **above** deed proved interesting. The deed is to Joshua Clark for Lot 186 in the 12th Land District on the 24th day of November 1825.

* This is a very early deed written one month before Lowndes County was created on December 23, 1825, thus an Irwin County deed.

* Lot 186, 12th District, did become a part of Lowndes County and remains so being in the old Salem district west of Hahira.

* The signature on the deed is "G. M. Troup," then Georgia governor, 1823-1827. With Troupville being our first town of significance, it is good to uncover an original document penned by Troup himself.



The Towered Homes of Victorian Valdosta: Some Had Their Towers Removed

When Alfred Willis, Ph.D., presented his program on The Towered Houses of Victorian Valdosta, an interesting portion were those houses from which the tower feature was removed or not replaced. The example below is the Blitch House at 706 N. Patterson Street. We use this example as two “new” - over 100 year old - photos of the house just came to the museum. The house was built by W. F. Monroe in 1888. (See page 4, *Monroe-Sutton-Haller House*). Monroe sold in 1896 to Thomas Jones Young and wife Laura. Young died soon and Laura married J. Y. Blitch, thus the Blitch House, the historical name it has kept. The grainy photo **below left** was the only early photo of the house in the museum archives until the recent donation. It shows the Patterson Street and Adair Street faces of the house. It is probably from the period of Monroe ownership. **Below right** is the Blitch House as it appears today. The two tower features on this house are thought to have not been reconstructed after a fire.



706 N. Patterson Street with tower soon after 1888 construction



Tower-less 706 N. Patterson is presently Coggins & Wood Law



“Cousin Laura’s House” Valdosta, Georgia, from the Winter of 1904-05

The two **above** photos came to the museum in December 2016 after having been in a scrapbook in Pennsylvania over 100 years. William Frederic Pendleton moved his family to Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania circa 1880. He was active in the Swedenborgian faith and after a schism became the first Executive Bishop of the Church of New Jerusalem. Laura’s “cousin” connection was via the Young family within Pendleton ancestry. A now distant cousin in Pennsylvania contacted Catherine Pendleton of Valdosta. He sent her digitized copies and she in turn supplied them to the museum as an electronic acquisition. They have other photos from this 1904-05 Valdosta trip that they plan to send to Catherine. **Above left** is the Patterson Street facade, **Above right** is the south side of the structure showing an additional tower feature on the house.

Lost in Fires

The Willis program and introductory slideshow included numerous homes, many lost to fires or demolition. Pictured are two lost in fires: the Holtzendorff home, built in 1905-06, and the William Spain McRee home, built 1895-96; also descendants of the owners of both homes.



Frank Blair and descendant Lucian Holtzendorff



Former Dr. Holtzendorff home, 505 N. Patterson Street



Catherine Carter Courson and her aunt Mary W. McRee



Former William Spain McRee home, Kinderlou



A Surviving Original Towered Home Monroe-Sutton-Haller

At right are Dixie and Tom Haller owners of the Monroe-Sutton-Haller home, *left*, at 303 Wells Street in the Fairview neighborhood. The home was built by W.F. Monroe in 1896 and is "Valdosta's finest surviving example of Victorian architecture." The home is named for the original owner and those that restored it: David and Marty Sutton in 1979 and by Tom and Dixie Haller in 2008.



Another Segment of Valdosta's Victorian Towers: Decorative Towers and Porches Added to Existing Structures

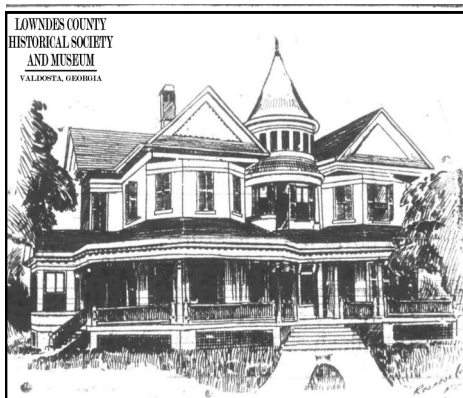
We are in a fortunate situation to have so much of our local architectural history being studied, recorded and explained by Valdosta native Alfred Willis, Ph.D. In addition to original construction with towers, he then told of other towers being added or removed, thus providing architectural intrigue to this study.

A fine example of features being added to an existing home is the Roberts House on Wells Street in Fairview neighborhood. The home is referred to as Valdosta's oldest home as it predates the town. William Wisenbaker built the house in 1842 as a one story structure. When the railroad from Savannah came in 1860 it put the home and property in the new town of Valdosta. A Mr. Peacock then owned the house for a short period. J. H. Wells owned the house over two decades and is responsible for the second story. The 1885 Panoramic View reflects the period of Wells ownership.

During 1891-93 J.T. Roberts bought the house and considerably changed the exterior of the home to reflect the fashionable Victorian style. Those features continue to adorn the house. The 1895 "snow" photograph shows the newly renovated Roberts House. The house just did survive a fire in 2011 and in 2017 Georgia State Tourism included its historic gardens in the newly developed I-75 Corridor portion of Georgia Camellia Trails.



Descendants of the Roberts House at the museum program included Helen Pendleton, Catherine Pendleton, Lonie Pendleton and Lilla Kate Paramore Hart.



At left:
The 1895
Cranford House
formerly at
400 N. Patterson
Street
was the feature
introduction home
for the program:
*Towered Homes
Of Victorian
Valdosta*



Alfred Willis, Ph.D., (at right in photo), researcher and lecturer, n in the upper gallery of the museum before the program with Frank Blair and Helen Pendleton



The Roberts House, then the Wells House, had no tower or large porches in the 1885 Panoramic View of Valdosta.



The Roberts House with a tower in the 1895 snow.

2017 New & Renewal Memberships

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**

* Asterisk denotes Life Member

** Double denotes New Life Member

*Listing includes Memberships
dated previous to March 24, 2017*

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Powder Springs, GA

Valdosta High 1961 55th Year Reunion



When the VHS Class of 1961 gathered in late October 2016 they listed the museum as an opportunity visit. When class member Tommy Tart and Linda Peeler, both of Orlando, Florida, came to the museum he discovered, in the **Dosta Outlook** student newspaper, a forgotten photo and article on his being named Mr. Wildcat Spirit. Serving another purpose from a quiz he also found that the Doerun High girls basketball team was named the "Doerun Does."

The **Dosta Outlook** began in 1935 and is archived only by our museum. We are building this collection with many issues having been donated. Recently two missing issues from 1939 were brought to the museum.



Left: Before the program on Victorian Towers Dr. Harry Hamm, Ginna McTier and Lamb Lastinger are pictured with the Jingle Bells Christmas Tree which recognizes the composer being a Valdosta resident for a period of time around 1870.

Right: Santa's Helpers, Cathy Lester Perry and Patsy Giles, kept the array of holiday goodies supplied.





MEMORIALS


Lucia Chase Bright

Winston-Salem, NC
by
Mary D. Gray

Diane Blankenship Corker

by
Jerry Nichols Byrd

Robert G. 'Bob' Dickerson, Jr.

by
Carey and Susanne Evans Smith
Marietta, GA

Virginia Copeland Drumheller

by
Jerry Nichols Byrd
Mr. and Mrs. Wade H. Coleman
Highlands, NC
Sally Shingler Kurrie

Helen Woodward Gayle
Jack Gayle, Jr.

by
Paul B. 'Bud' Hatcher, Jr.

Judith Killeen Hall

by
J. Edward Willis

Owen D. Harris

by
Mr. and Mrs. Wade H. Coleman
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Judge George Henry Hart, Jr.

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Mr. and Mrs. Wade H. Coleman
Highlands, NC
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Eleanor Morgan Howard
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Myrtis Avera Howell

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Patsy T. Giles
J. Edward Willis

Dr. Jerah Williams Johnson

New Orleans, LA
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Donald O. Davis
C. Edward and Rita Hightower

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Dr. and Mrs. William W. Oliver, Jr.
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Shirley Stump Miller

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Mary D. Gray

Albert Sidney Pendleton, Jr.

by
Judge and Mrs. H. Arthur McLane

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by
Alex B. McFadden

Otis Lane Renfroe

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Patsy T. Giles

Stuart Scruggs

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Jerry Nichols Byrd

Martha Lee George Smart

by
Rebecca Anne Odom

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John Wesley Thomas

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Mary D. Gray

Mary Husbands Zipperer

by
Patsy T. Giles
Lee and Linda Beggs Hatcher
Royden and Kathi Hunnewell
J. Edward Willis

*Memorials listed are those
received by March 24, 2017*



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**Lloyd Barton Greer &
Julie Winn Varnedoe Greer**

by
Julie Ewing Hunt
Tifton, GA

**Paul B. Hatcher, Sr. &
Martha Cranford Hatcher**

by
Paul B. 'Bud' Hatcher, Jr.

2017 Membership Application, Lowndes County Historical Society, P.O. Box 56, Valdosta, GA 31603

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Membership Category

Individual \$25. ____

Family 30. ____

Business 50. ____

Contributing 100. ____

Patron 250. ____

MUSEUM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 25.....VHS Class of 1967
 April & May.....Completion of 2017 Membership Drive
 April 15.....Closed for Easter Weekend
 April 18.....Holly Garden Club at the Museum
 May 27-29.....Closed for Memorial Day Weekend

Officers and Executive Committee

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

Lowndes County Historical Society & Museum

305 West Central Avenue Valdosta, GA 31601
 P. O. Box 56 Valdosta, GA 31603
 (229) 247-4780

Fax and Line #2: (229) 247-2840

E-mails: research.lchs@gmail.com & ddavis.lchs@gmail.com

Web page:

<http://www.valdostamuseum.com>

YESTERDAY & TODAY

Newsletter of
Lowndes County Historical Society

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 Donald O. Davis

Museum Staff
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 Textiles and Research.

Harry S. Evans
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