



## Recording the Record of our Regents ...

The University System of Georgia Board of Regents [BOR] held one of its two-per-year campus location meetings at Valdosta State University October 13, 14 and 15. This local BOR meeting allowed us to learn and confirm information that ties to our local history.

To our current knowledge, in the *photo at right*, are VSU's first and second graduates to be appointed to positions on the BOR, Julie Ewing Hunt of Tifton in 2003, and C. Thomas Hopkins, MD, of Griffin in 2010.

Having begun as a women's college it is interesting to note the first VSU graduate regent was Julie Ewing Hunt, VSC 1963, B.S. in Education. Julie Hunt was first appointed to the BOR in 2003 to serve out the term of her husband John Hunt, Ashburn native, Tifton resident, regional business leader and developer. She was then appointed to a full term beginning in 2004. She early taught English at Tift County High School and has now spent many years in operation of the family business, JH Services, Inc., as well as president of the Tift County Chamber of Commerce, state board member of the Georgia Economic Development Authority, and more.

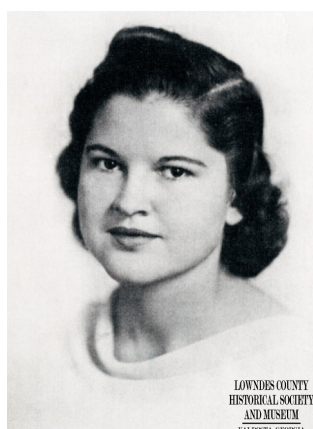
Thomas (Tommy) Hopkins, MD, Orthopedic Surgeon, came to VSC from Griffin, graduated in 1975, and returned



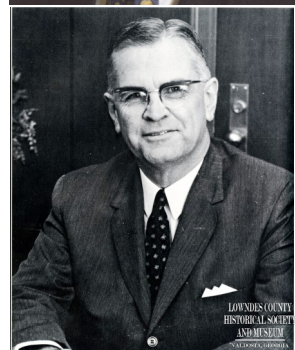
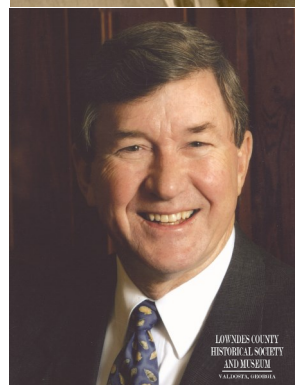
to Griffin after completing his medical degree at Emory University. He has many fraternity brother friends in Valdosta, the writer included. So, for a superlative, we tell with a smile, that he is the first 'male' graduate of VSC to be on the Board of Regents.

An act of the Georgia Legislature in 1906 approved in Valdosta for the establishment of an agricultural, industrial, and normal college in South Georgia, as a branch of the University of Georgia. It was to be coed, but since only one dormitory could be built, and the urgent need for teachers, the Trustees voted to be female only and opened in 1913 as South Georgia State Normal College. In 1922 the school became Georgia State Womans College, then coed VSC in 1950 and VSU in 1993. The University System of Georgia with BOR was established in 1931.

Local members of the BOR have included, *right panel upper*, Valdosta native John W. Langdale, who also served as Chancellor of the BOR, and another Valdosta native Rusty Griffin, *panel middle*, a current BOR member appointed 2011. Also, Dr. S. Walter Martin, *panel lower*, Tifton native, Emory president, BOR Vice-Chancellor, then VSC President and long time Valdosta resident after retirement.



In discussion we learned that Julie Ewing Hunt was the first grandchild of well-known Valdosta architect Lloyd Greer, *left above*, and his wife Julie Winn Varnedoe Greer. Julie Ewing's mother was Pardee Greer, *above right*. The photo is her Georgia State Womans College (VSU) 1939 senior portrait. She married John A. Ewing, Jr., and they lived in Ashburn, Ga. She died at age 92 in 2011. We have continual inquiry about Lloyd Greer homes at the museum.



**Victoria Wilcox, Popular Doc Holliday author, speaking Nov. 15, See page 8 .**



## Introducing Others to a Bit of our Past and Present

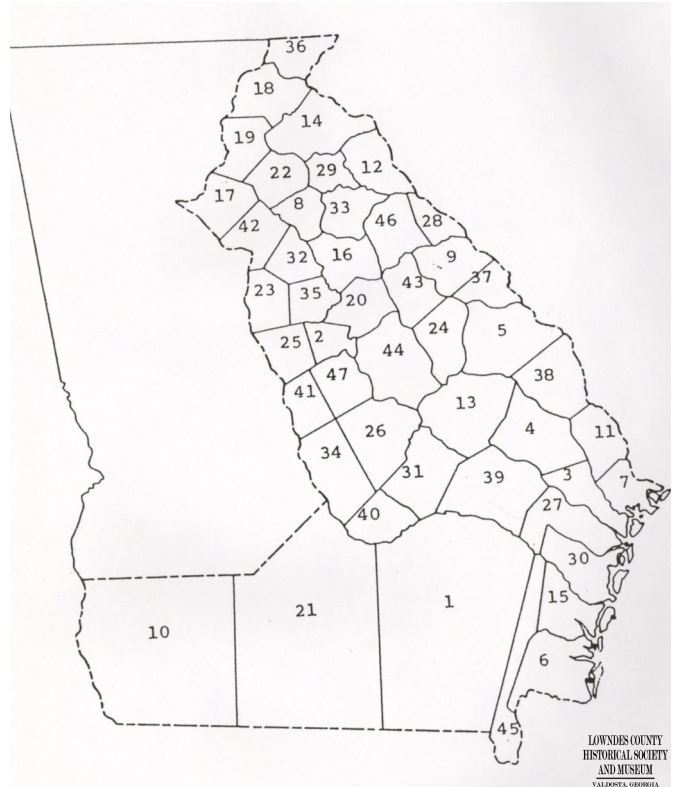
This page and the next four include items that were for potential inclusion in an area information bullet-points-scroll for the hospitality baskets for the visiting Board of Regents members, University System of Georgia administrators and college presidents.

The points were to cover our history, community, and regional activity, and also with the VSU connections on several as well.

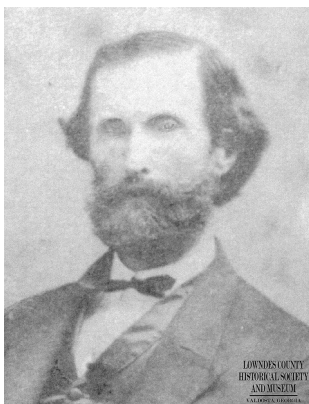
Other historic, civic and exhibit items were presented at functions, Monday night at the Quail Branch Lodge and Tuesday noon at the Crescent, thus some items were not included in these points.

We were honored to be asked to assist in presenting a bit of our community and area to people from other parts of Georgia. Additional information and all the images were added to the bullet points that follow for printing in this newsletter.

... The formation of three giant buffer counties in 1818 brought the first census of inland South Georgia in 1820. Georgia wanted to populate the area above then Spanish Florida. The 1820 population enumerated in the current boundaries of Lowndes County was "zero."



... The first Railroad arrived from Savannah in 1860 providing for the beginning of real development in South Georgia. New towns and county seats formed on the line; Johnston's Station (Ludowici), Jesup, Blackshear, Waycross, Homer-ville, Valdosta and Quitman and after the Civil War, Cairo and Donalsonville. Thomasville and Bainbridge were established towns and the railroad went to them. Note: The map at left is 1870 after railroad expansion after the Civil War.

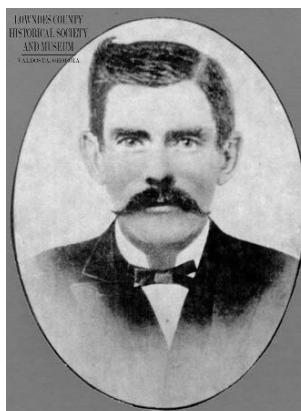


**Civil War Refugees  
to Valdosta**

**Major Henry B.  
Holliday**

**and his son**

**John Henry Holliday  
later Doc Holliday**



... The new rail line stretching into remote South Georgia made Valdosta an active refugee town during the Civil War. Many returned home after the war but many stayed and some became leading citizens. Major Henry Holliday, from Griffin, stayed and became mayor of Valdosta. His son John left Valdosta for dental school and later became the Wild West figure Doc Holliday of the "Gunfight at the OK Corral" in Tombstone, AZ.



... During the mid 1880s Valdosta leaders purposed to make something of the town. In 1889 they achieved getting the Georgia Southern & Florida rail line from Macon into Florida. Being at the edge of both the cotton belt and the range Valdosta became a center of commerce for both. Other rail lines followed and an electric street railway system. The four counties north, now on I-75; Cook, Tift, Turner and Crisp, formed in their present locations because Valdosta leaders got the railroad.

... In 1913 articles told of "Valdosta the Richest City Per Capita, Not only in Georgia, But in the United States." Patterson Street was called Millionaires row and the town's baseball club the Valdosta Millionaires. This era of local leaders funded the opening of South Georgia State Normal College (VSU).

...The Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce sets a high bar as an example of achievement for the rest of the community. They are among 85 chambers nationwide to achieve Five Star Accreditation from US Chamber of Commerce. Just over 1% of the 7 thousand chambers have this designation. Georgia is on the US Chamber map with eight Five Star Chambers: Valdosta, Greater Columbus, Cobb, Greater Dalton, Habersham County, Lagrange Troup County, Newnan-Coweta, and [Warner] Robins Regional. Note: The local Chamber of Commerce is headquartered in the Barber House. The Chamber celebrated 100 years in 1912 and will celebrate The Barber House 100 Years in 2015.

## VALDOSTA, GEORGIA. ILLUSTRATED.

LOWNDES COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
AND MUSEUM  
VALDOSTA, GEORGIA



### "DIXIE FLYER" ROUTE.

Double Daily Pullman Buffet Sleeping Car Service between St. Louis, Mo., and Jacksonville, Fla., via Lake City, Fla.  
WILLIAM CHECKLEY SHAW, Vice-President. C. B. RHODES, G. F. A. W. L. GLESSNER, Commissioner Immigration, &c.

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## VALDOSTA EXPOSITION COMPANY, OCTOBER 30 to NOVEMBER 3, 1900.

A. T. MOORE, Manager.

GREATEST EXPOSITION, RACES AND AMUSEMENTS EVER GIVEN IN SOUTH GEORGIA.



LOWNDES COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
AND MUSEUM  
VALDOSTA, GEORGIA





...VSU has contributed significantly to the arts in South Georgia. Summer 2014 was the 25th season for Peach State Summer Theater, "PSST!," which is designated The Official Musical Theater of the State of Georgia. It is a professional extension of the VSU Theater program. Continuing in VSU Arts, 2014-2015 is the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration for the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra. The VSO serves the regional academic mission of Valdosta State and the widely supported orchestra has become an important part of the cultural life of the entire region. **Note: Photo above left;** Reviewing early Valdosta Symphony Orchestra documents. Standing is Robert B. Welch, first conductor, and seated, Norman Brantley, and Ann Burnett, who became second Guild president. The photo is from the Connell Studios Collection in the Museum archives. **Right:** PSST's 25th season Commemorative logo.



...Valdosta is home to Wild Adventures Theme Park which continues as a major attraction in this region with a 12% attendance increase this season. They promote their venue as "the ultimate, affordable, theme park experience ... and great family entertainment". VSU students opted several years ago to drop an annual homecoming concert and replace it with Wild Adventures Wednesday, a night at the park.

...Valdosta and VSU are fortunate recipients of extensive area television coverage. This is due to Valdosta/ Lowndes County being the largest market in the coverage area of WALB TV (NBC) Albany and the largest market outside Tallahassee, FL for WCTV (CBS) and WTXL (ABC). In the southern third of Georgia, that between Alabama and the Atlantic Ocean, in the 2010 census, Valdosta/Lowndes is second in population with 109, 000, then Albany/ Dougherty at 94,000 and Brunswick/Glynn 79,000. Savannah/Chatham, in both the southern and middle thirds of Georgia, is largest at 265,000. None approach the population of Metro Atlanta counties.



....Moody AFB has long been a chief factor in the regional economy. It has also brought the area a variety of new residents; some only a few months for training, some retiring. Of note is that former US President George W. Bush lived here while in pilot training at Moody. He returns here this December as keynote speaker for The Georgia Christian School's 100<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration. Note: The photo, US Congressman George H. W. Bush of Texas pinning wings on his son George W. Bush. Image is from the *Valdosta Magazine* Collection, LCHS Archives. Article by the late Bob Hornbuckle.



... Speaking of flight, Valdosta Regional Airport is one of nine commercial airports in Georgia. It provides a vital link for growth. VSU International students, including 150 from South Korea, like it very much.

**WINNERSVILLE, U.S.A.**  
**1 Valdosta, Ga.**  
**HOME OF CHAMPIONS**

...A Georgia high school, Valdosta High, is currently the nation's winningest high school football program. (A Kentucky high school is in hot pursuit) Emanating from this achievement and in combination with the successes of other community teams, Valdosta was bestowed the moniker "Winnersville" in the 1980s and TitleTown, USA, in an ESPN sports network nationwide poll in 2008. Since 2004 VSU has appeared in eleven national championship final matches winning six: football 2004, 2007 and 2010; Men's tennis 2006 and 2011; and softball 2012. Note: Image above is from an original bumper sticker from the 1980s, Louie Peeples White Collection, LCHS Museum Archives.





... Grand Bay WMA is located in northeast Lowndes County adjacent to Moody Air Force Base. It and the Grand Bay Wetlands Education Center are within a 13,000 acre wetland system. As a natural blackwater wetland it is second in size in Georgia only to the Okefenokee Swamp. On display is a sizeable cypress timber, left, probably accidentally, when cut about 1910. Its rings reveal it began growing circa 1290 A.D. Ocean Pond in south Lowndes is the State of Georgia's Largest "Still" Natural Body of Water, it numbered within the only significant system of natural lakes in Georgia.

...The 37<sup>th</sup> annual Sunbelt Ag Expo in Moultrie at Spence Field, 35 miles up Hwy 133, is occurring simultaneous to the Board of Regents meeting. The Expo is "North America's Premier Farm Show" and is the largest farm show exposition in the USA with 90,000 visitors expected this year. Valdosta is a chief lodging center for this event, and because of facilities Valdosta gets to participate with the Expo's prestigious "Sunbelt Expo Farmer of the Year Award" banquet held here annually at the Rainwater Convention Center. Note: *At right*, The Farmer of the Year Award 25th Anniversary template. As the Expo grew so did its scope with the Swisher Sweets Southeastern Farmer of the Year Award as an example.



...Nearby is the Georgia Grown Trail: Highway 37, our state's first such designated road. It runs through nine counties from Homerville over to I-75 and west to the Alabama border. AgriTourism is proving successful. Plans for the Highway 41 Georgia Grown Trail from Barnesville south to Valdosta and the Florida border are nearing completion. Note: Below is an image of the recently developed signage: Georgia Grown Trail 41 and photo of a recently installed sign at Raisin' Cain south of Valdosta.



## Timeline for: Hill Avenue, U.S. Highway 84, Georgia Route 38

With the completion of the railway overpass on West Hill Avenue we at the museum were asked to supply some historic notes on the road and rail. The dates below cover some development highlights.

**1860-** Valdosta established on the RR line from Savannah, decades later U.S. 84 would parallel this route

**1887-** City Council officially names streets, the name Hill Avenue was already in use

**1889-** Georgia Southern and Florida RR from Macon arrives intersecting Hill Avenue and the 1860 railroad from Savannah. This intersecting was key to Valdosta's future.

**1900-** Original Valdosta Streetcar Rail system included West Hill Avenue

**1903 -** Hill Avenue first paved street in Valdosta, using brick pavers

**1912-** The East Hill Avenue line was added to the Streetcar Rail System, to Forrest Street and north

**1920-** Georgia's first state highway map shows State Route 38, basically as is today.

**1926-** The first map of the United States System of Highways includes U.S. 84 as an original designated Highway. U.S.41 also, the two highways then intersecting in downtown Valdosta at Ashley Street and Hill Ave.

**1963-** Interstate 75 reaches U.S. 84 and on to Florida, Ribbon cutting Ceremony at the state line with Governors: Farris Bryant, Florida; and Carl Sanders, Georgia, July 15, 1963.

**1967-** U.S.84 divided into East and West one ways in downtown Valdosta

**1977-** E. Hill Avenue/U.S.84 four-laned from Smith Park east to the city limits

**1983-** Definite talks begin about the four-laning of U.S.84 across South Georgia.

**1985-** Inner Perimeter Road segment from Forrest Street and Park Avenue completed to U.S.84.

**1988-** US84 to be widened, work to begin in January 1989

**1989-** East of Waycross US82 and US84 swap designations. New: U.S.82 to Brunswick, U.S.84 towards Savannah. This aligned current U.S.84 towns with their founding history, the railroad from Savannah.

**1990-** Valdosta to Quitman U.S.84 four-laning completed. U.S.84 Four-laning begins east towards Homerville

**1994-** Wiregrass Georgia Parkway designated by Georgia DOT as theme name for U.S.84. Ceremony held on Georgia Day, February 12, 1995. The Tom D. Shelton Highway is a designated memorial segment of same.

**1996-** Olympic Torch carried on U.S.84 from Toombs Street west.

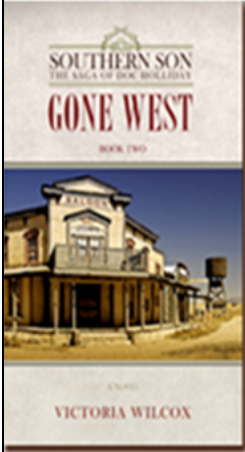
**2014-** U.S.84 Overpass completed. Ribbon cutting October 21.



**Above:** 1977 Ribbon cutting celebrating the completion of the four-laning of East Hill Avenue from Smith Park to the Valdosta City limits. This photo is in both the Chamber of Commerce and the Valdosta/Lowndes Industrial Authority Collections in the museum archives. The photo identifications are: unknown, Jack May, Ashley Hill, unknown, James Beck. Ernest Nijem, unknown, unknown, Dave Wainer, Felton Davis, Loyce Turner, Gil Harbin, Johnny B. Lastinger and Paul Sanders.



## Victoria Wilcox, Popular Holliday Author, Speaking at Museum Holliday Talk Welcomes the Holiday Season



### The Lowndes County Historical Society and Museum

**Guest Author : Victoria Wilcox**  
Speaking on her second volume in a trilogy of novels



## GONE WEST

**SOUTHERN SON: THE SAGA OF DOC HOLLIDAY**

November 15, 2014 at the museum

Opens at 10:30 a.m.  
Speaker 10:45 a.m.  
Book signing after program

Refreshment provided  
To reserve a seat please R.S.V.P.  
229-247-4780 or [research.lchs@gmail.com](mailto:research.lchs@gmail.com) 305 W. Central Ave.

For her first novel, and it the first book in her trilogy, *Southern Son, The Saga of Doc Holliday, Inheritance*, Victoria Wilcox, *photo below*, was named Georgia Author of the Year at the 50th presentation of the award. We very much look forward to her being in Valdosta again speaking at the museum on Saturday, November 15. *See details at left.*



We hope to have the “Jingle Bells” Christmas Tree trimmed before the event. The Holliday’s and James Lord Pierpont were 1870 Valdosta contemporaries.



**Above:** A young girl inspects this fallout shelter model on the courthouse square in November 1961. These would be placed underground and stocked with supplies in hopes of surviving the after effects of radiation from a nuclear attack.

## 1960s Fallout Fears

Searching on one subject often leads to other interesting information. Gathering dates for the U.S.84 Timeline, (see page 7), in particular, when I-75 reached 84, we checked 1960s *Progress* editions of the Chamber of Commerce. Even this publication touched on issues concerning the Soviet Union and the Cold War. For the young, during this period Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev was making continual threats in relation to the destruction of America and Western Civilization, and was moving nuclear missiles to Cuba. At junior high we had safety drills of crawling under your desk for perhaps a small bit of protection.

In the October 1963 issue of *Progress*, Volume 7, Number 6, the following list is included. “According to Rep. Wright Patman of Texas, here are some things the U.S. would have to do to equal the accomplishments of the Soviet Union.”

1. Knock down 7 out of every 10 homes.
2. Cut all paychecks by 75 percent.
3. Abandon 95 percent of our cars and trucks.
4. Disconnect 9 out of every 10 telephones.
5. Sink 8 out of every 9 ocean-going vessels.
6. Scrap 40 million TV sets
7. Rip up 2 out of every 3 miles of railroad track.
8. Scrap 60 percent of our steel capacity.
9. Close 7 out of every 10 producing oil wells.
10. Ship 60 million Americans back to farms.



## 2014 Memberships

*Continued from previous newsletter.  
Places 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 impor-  
-tant cultural entity in Lowndes County  
and help us to fulfill our mission— to  
collect, preserve and present the  
history of Lowndes County*

Robert Bohler

Ft. Worth, TX

Doug Norwood Hodges

Woodbridge, VA

Donald L. Holliday

Alexandria, IN

Eric D. Johnson

Jim W. Knight

Green Cove Springs, FL

Judy Lawson

James S. MacLean, Jr.

Jacksonville, FL

Elaine Parrish McMillan

Tom and Renate Milner

Cecil, GA

Ronnie and Shirley L. Mitchell

Fair Oaks, CA

Robert 'Bubba' and Debbie Nolan

Otis B. 'Sonny' and Paula Shroyer

Kenneth E. Sloat

Lakeland, GA

Frank L. and Betty Wilson

Rebekah Wilson

Auburn, AL

## MEMORIALS



### Dr. Donald Emory Gerlock, Jr.

Homestead, FL

By

Hank and Claire S. Lee

### Faye Marie Hagan Grice

By

J. Edward Willis

### Ollie Marion 'Lovie'

Godwin Gulliver

By

Donald O. Davis

Martha Norwood Gibson

### Frances Scott Lamon

By

J. Edward Willis

### Shirley Hoye Martin

By

Patsy T. Giles

Dr. Charles F. and Nancy Hobby

Jane Twitty Shelton

### Latrell Locher

By

Joan I. Scoggins

### Elbert Wells 'Bert' Powell

By

Hank and Claire S. Lee

### Willie 'Bill' Vern Purdy

By

J. Edward Willis

### Charley Scarbrough

By

J. Edward Willis

### Fred Harding Walker, Sr.

By

J. Edward Willis

### John Capers Woodward, Jr.

by

J. Edward Willis

### Barbara Grinstead Yancey

By

J. Edward Willis

### Oscar Zipperer

By

J. Edward Willis

## Lake Park Area Historical Society Christmas Tour of Homes



Sunday Afternoon December 14, 2014

*Tour begins at the Museum at 2 P.M.*

*Runs until 5 p.m.*

*For information call: Ann Peterson 229-559-6541*

*Or Barbara Slocumb 229-559-5771*

### 2014 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**

Ongoing Exhibit.....Valdosta During the Civil War Era  
 November 15.....Victoria Wilcox; "On the Trail of Doc Holliday  
 From Southern Son to Texas Outlaw."

November thru December... ..Jingle Bells Christmas Tree

November 27-30.....Closed for Thanksgiving Weekend

December 24 - January 3.....Closed for Christmas/New Years

February 12..... Georgia Day Program

**Officers and Executive Committee**

**President, Patsy Giles; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, T. Davy Shelton; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President,**

**Martha N. Gibson; Secretary, Joseph Tomberlin; Treasurer, Redden Hart;**

**Past President, Julie Smith; Mary McRee, and Anita Shelton**

**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: [ddavis.lchs@gmail.com](mailto:ddavis.lchs@gmail.com)

Web page:

<http://www.valdostamuseum.com>

**YESTERDAY & TODAY**

Newsletter of  
**Lowndes County Historical Society**

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