

Lowndes County Historical Society, Inc. Purchases Old Dr. Frank Bird Hospital



Above: Rev. Mac Weaver representing First Baptist Church, Trustees; Patsy Giles, LCHS President; and Dr. Joe Tomberlin, LCHS current Secretary and a Past-President, sign closing documents for the LCHS purchasing the Old Bird Hospital.

On April 29, 2016, The Lowndes County Historical Society, Inc. purchased The Youth and Activities Building, formerly the Bird Hospital, from First Baptist Church. Discussion was initiated several years ago by David Waller, a very active member of First Baptist Church. He and his wife Sharon are longtime historical society members and regularly attended society functions. Waller spent considerable time in the LCHS museum while developing the Valdosta Wildcat Museum. LCHS provided copies of early team photos they did not have and the favor was returned.

During his visits David Waller continued to notice our need for more space for exhibits, storage and work areas. He often stated that when First Baptist Church constructed its new Family Life Center that the historical society needed to purchase the old Bird Hospital for expansion. To the delight of the Lowndes County Historical Society Board of Trustees, a most generous offer by First Baptist Church made the purchase of the building possible.

Currently, J. Glenn Gregory Architects is doing an Assessment/ Phasing Plan Study of the building. Historical notes on the Bird Hospital follow in this newsletter and also our points of gratitude.

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE & PROGRAM

MRS. CRANFORD'S CHRISTMAS PRESENT

AND THE OTHER

TOWERED HOMES OF VICTORIAN VALDOSTA

by Alfred Willis, PhD.

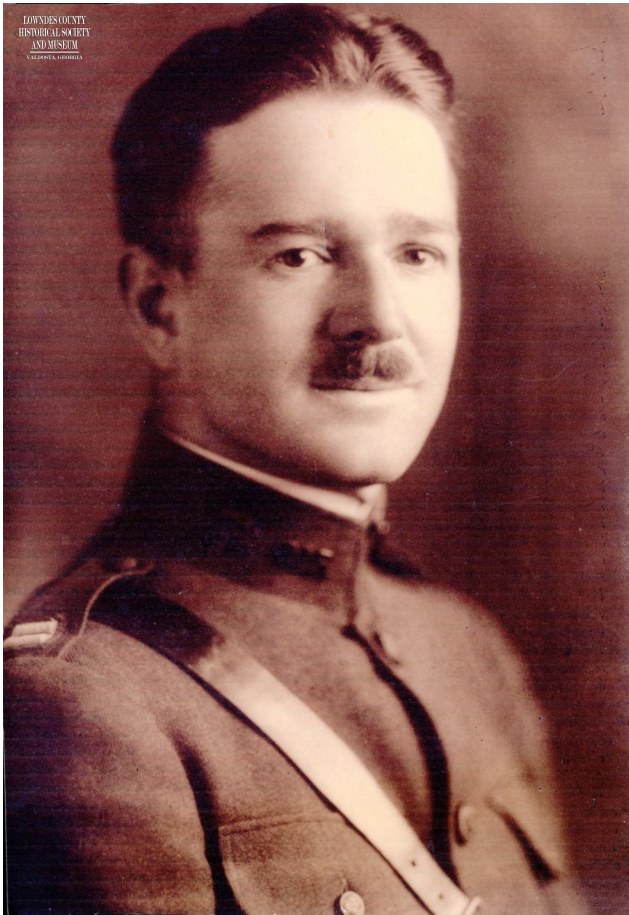
Open House 10 a.m.-2 p.m. / Program 11 a.m.
Saturday, December 10 - 305 W. Central Avenue
Holiday Refreshments Served
Jingle Bells Christmas Tree
RSVP to 247-4780 or research.lchs@gmail.com



LOWNDES COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
AND MUSEUM
VALDOSTA, GEORGIA

(Line Drawing from 1895 VDT Harvest Edition, new Cranford Home at 400 N. Patterson, later demolished)

Bird Hospital: Constructed in 1927, Sold in 1943



Above: Dr. Frank Bird during WWI

1943: Dr. Bird Seriously Injured Hospital Purchased Becomes Health Department

The Atlanta Constitution Aug. 19, 1943 Hospital Purchase Plan Is Approved at Valdosta

"Joint action between the city of Valdosta, Lowndes County, and the federal government, has resulted in approval of plans for the purchase of the Frank Bird hospital in this city for a Health Center, to be occupied by the various governmental departments.

The property has been approved by all departments involved, and official notice has been received by Mayor J. D. Ashley that the government money, \$40,000, has been made available. The city will add \$5,000 and county \$5,000 to complete the purchase.

Recently Dr. Bird was injured by a fall to such extent that he could no longer operate the hospital, there also being an acute shortage of nurses and doctors, which added to the difficulty of continuing the operation of the plant, despite the great need of this additional hospital service in this city and section."

From the Valdosta Daily Times Nov. 18, 1959 Bird, Mixson Hospital

"In 1921 Drs. Frank Bird and J.F. Mixson established a small hospital upstairs in the building located on the corner of Central Avenue and Ashley Street. In its management they had associated themselves with then Misses Arata Taylor and Laura Blanton.

This was the forerunner of the hospital these two doctors constructed in the 1927 at the intersection of Stevens [now 100 block on N. Oak] and Briggs Streets and Central Avenue. This was a complete and modern hospital capable of meeting almost any medical and surgery needs.

In 1932 Dr. Mixson and Dr. Bird dissolved partnership and Dr. Bird continued to operate the hospital. Dr. D. L. Burns continued his association with Dr. Bird.

For a time Dr. Ashley Bird, Dr. Frank Bird's son, was connected with the hospital.

In 1943, Dr. Bird suffered an accident in a fall through the elevator shaft of the building and his injuries forced him to close his practice.

Shortly after the accident, Dr. Ashley Bird entered the armed forces and this resulted in the closing of the hospital.

Dr. Bird sold the property to the city and county in late 1943 for use as a health center and headquarters for the Welfare Department, in which use it continued until present time[1959]"



Above: Fred DeLoach, former Chairman of the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners. He and his late wife Jean, both long time LCHS society members, often attended museum functions. He told us several times that he was born in the Bird Hospital in 1928. Knowing he was one of the earliest patients, we asked his daughter Beth DeLoach Meeks to bring him by for a photo inside the Bird Hospital. Beth works in "Georgia Grown" program and while here we discussed the tie-in of historical aspects in agricultural promotion.



Billie Ham Smith, 1915-1995

Making It Possible

Our gracious thanks and appreciation continue to go to Billie Ham Smith and her son Frank Dodd (Tony) Smith, Jr. The family's past generosity to the Lowndes County Historical Society has made the purchase of the old Frank Bird Hospital possible. The Smith Family's generosity, with careful management by our Trustees over the years, allows the LCHS to be rare among local history museums by opening daily and having employees. Refurbishing the building and preparing exhibit space will require fund raising.

Billie Ham Smith grew up in Valdosta and was a 1932 graduate of Valdosta High School and a 1936 graduate of Georgia State Womans College, now VSU. She married Frank Dodd Smith. The family lived in Cartersville, Bartow County, Georgia. We have a note from 1972 in our archives where Billie Ham Smith wrote Albert Pendleton thanking him for opening the museum for her, it then on Patterson Street, and how greatly she appreciated it. She left provisions for LCHS in her will if she outlived her son. She did not outlive her son, but he, Tony Smith, decided to pass the listed properties on to the society in honor and memory of his mother. Thank you Tony.

The Smiths, the Birds & the Bird Flu

Tony Smith told us of Dr. Bird's patients surviving the WWI flu when others died, and that all in his father's Atlanta law firm knew of Bird observing on ship that the officers being cooled down died and the enlisted men near the boiler room receiving no cooling relief survived. (See *LCHS newsletter Nov-Dec 2005*)



Above: An early postcard of the Frank Bird Hospital with the Carnegie Library in the background




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Coming to Valdosta The Coca-Cola Trail

Earlier in the year the museum was contacted by Larry Jorgenson of Louisiana. He had found mention on the internet of Valdosta being the second place in the world to bottle Coca-Cola.

He explained that he was going to publish a book to be titled **The Coca-Cola Trail**. He further wrote "The overview of the book is people and places in the history of Coca-Cola." He also added, "The purpose of the book is to tell our readers about locations which have played a significant role in the history of Coca-Cola, and where there is something they can see and/or touch that is a part of that history."

This sent the museum on its own trail of discovery in our archives. Practically all of our early Coca-Cola photos had been processed at some point, but the Barber family achieves at the museum, known to contain many letters, papers and some advertisements, had never had thorough examination. Staff researcher Harry Evans began a methodical study of this collec-



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Can Fill any Order or Satisfy any Taste

COCA-COLA AND RED RACE


Are the Ammunitions for the Weary Ones. The Big Guns Drink for Policy, the Smaller Calibre from Choice

Five Cents Turns the Trick and Makes a Bright Future

VALDOSTA BOTTLING WORKS

VALDOSTA, GEORGIA

Below: The envelope was postmarked January 14, 1911. The stamp long ago detached or removed. It is addressed to Ola Belle Barber and was from her father E. R. Barber. Of note is the fanciful message on the address lines and is solved "By using and selling Red Race Ginger Ale and Coca-Cola."



*Valdosta Bottling Works,
Manufacturers of
High Grade Carbonated Goods,
Valdosta, Georgia.*




We believe that Miss Ola Belle Barber.

Will be healthier at College Park Ga.

And live longer in care Cox College

By using and selling Red Race Ginger Ale and Coca-Cola.



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tion and much was found not only to assist Larry Jorgenson, but also much more information that enhances our local Coca-Cola knowledge.

We hope that Jorgensen's "The Coca-Cola Trail" is available in 2017. With a chapter on Valdosta, and with the efforts the museum put into gathering information, we consider it somewhat an enhancement to the Lowndes County Historical Society's 50th year anniversary in 2017.

Photo opposite top: The Coca-Cola wheelbarrow, Valdosta, Ga, April 14, 1915. At some point microfilm can be researched to check to see if there was a particular event that day. **Image opposite middle:** A Valdosta Bottling Works advertisement during a Georgia-Florida Fair held in Valdosta.

Image right: from the *Valdosta Times* December 16, 1903. The information in the advertisement happens to note a significant change in bottling. The crown system had been developed replacing the Hutchinson stopper method. Valdosta Bottling Works in this ad states themselves as the first in Georgia to adopt the famous "Crown" system.

Photo below: An early horse-drawn Holmes and Barber Valdosta Bottling Works parade entry with flags and product.

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THE CHILDREN,
THE WHOLE FAMILY

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Valdosta Bottling Works,
HOLMES & BARBER, Proprietors.

Have established more successful plants of that kind than any other firm in southern Georgia. They make a class of goods entirely their own, and they HAVE NO COMPETITORS. They expect to open a new bottling works in an adjoining town soon. They are originators of all high grade carbonated drinks, and are so recognized by the public. They were the first people in Georgia to adopt the famous "Crown" system of bottling, and the demand has grown so great that they will install a new machine at once to put up 24 bottles a minute.

Send Them Your Orders.





Collecting Information On: Moody AFB Since 1941

The museum staff has been busy the last few months with behind the scenes activity for the 75th year since the establishment of Moody Field, Moody Air Force Base. The museum already had considerable Moody information and photos in our archives when Moody historian Ken Sloat contacted the museum about dozens of early negatives he had no way to process. Museum staff prepared the negatives and they have been available to the *Valdosta Daily Times* for their current publication **Moody AFB 75 Years: Wings Over South Georgia** and to the Lowndes County Commission and the City of Valdosta. In the LCHS publication **The Piney Woods Journal of History, Volume I**, Dr. John E. Lancaster wrote an extensive article, *Establishment Of Moody Field, 1940-1941*.

The photos *at left above* are taken from the negatives. Above is the ribbon cutting for the theater at Moody in 1960. The collection also shows the earlier theater after being destroyed by fire. *Left center* are hundreds of boots on the sidewalk at Kirby's Shoe Repair in Valdosta. The negatives recently scanned cover from the 1940s into the 1960s.

The photo *below* came to our archives earlier in 2016 from Vickie Ledbetter Everitte of Tucson, AZ. Written on the back of the photo is "Moody Civilian Employees Assn. Basketball Team, Moody Field, Valdosta." Also noted is that the coach was Sgt. Freddie Gulianni, Jr., and the partial player identifications in as follows: Kneeling #10, Marguerite Norton (Blanton); Standing; # 7, no ID; # 11, Julia Dunbar (Beck); #8, Evelyn Hewitt; #14, Neva Hutchins; # 13, no ID; # 12, no ID; # 5, Alice Triche; # 3, Libby Fender (Thomas) and # 6, Georgia Pualk. Please report any further identification to the museum.



Chasing Information On the 100 Count Victories

When the *Valdosta Daily Times* began their series of articles leading up to Valdosta High School's 900th football win they contacted the museum for historical information on these 100 count wins. Here we will note some research information on the 100th and 300th wins.

The *Times* reported that the 100th win was the first game of the 1930 season versus Cordele. We told the *Times* that we might find nothing but we would try. VHS produced no yearbooks during the Great Depression and the student newspaper, *The Dosta Outlook*, did not begin until 1935.

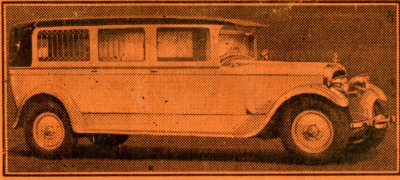
What a stroke of fate, our archives had one 1930 football program and it was for the Cordele game. The only other 1930s programs in our archives are one from 1934 and one from 1936.

The 300th win was the first game of the 1955 season versus Baxley. By 1955 there are yearbooks and the student newspaper so information can be much more easily gathered than that for the 1930s. Also, extensive scrapbooks are in our archives from the 1950s.

What made searching for information on this Baxley game so interesting were the "Firsts" encountered. **Below** are incoming VHS Band Director Andy Odom and retiring director Glenn Bacon. Although at VHS only two years Andy Odom wrote the VHS Fight Song V-I-C-T-O-R-Y, and it so happens it was first performed for fans at the Baxley 300th win game. Students had unanimously voted to approve it at a pep rally.

Below right: The Baxley game was the first use of an electric scoreboard at Cleveland Field. The newspaper clipping offers some of the details.

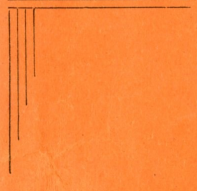
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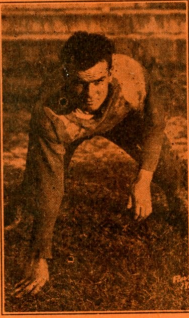
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Cover page of 1930 Football Program, Valdosta vs. Cordele



LOWNDES COUNTY
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VALDOSTA, GEORGIA

The new electric scoreboard at Cleveland Field went through final tests yesterday and was pronounced in top shape for its debut tonight. Down and yard- age control will be operated from the pressbox while the clock is official and will be op- erated from the field.

The scoreboard is a gift pro-
vided by Mayor John Bray Gid-
dens and city councilmen Jack
Howell, Noah Langdale, Sr., J.
C. Green, Roy McLane, Bob
Hall and Carl Minchew.

Towered Homes of Victorian Valdosta

As listed on page one of this newsletter and on the program notice mailed to our membership, the December 10, Museum Open House features a program by Alfred Willis, PhD., titled, "Mrs. Cranford's Christmas Present, and the Other Towered Homes of Victorian Valdosta."

Included at right are two of the many beautiful Valdosta homes that were lost to demolition or fire. Both shown here were demolished. **Above:** The Briggs– Oliver house which was catty-cornered to the Crescent. **Below:** The J. N. Griffin home which was catty-cornered to the current City Hall and immediately east across Lee Street from the new hotel to be constructed downtown.



The former Briggs-Oliver House 809 N. Patterson Street



The former J. Newton Griffin House 303 E. Central Avenue

2016 New & Renewal Memberships

(continued from previous newsletters)

Place of residence listed for those
Outside of Lowndes County

**The Historical Society Trustees
and Museum Staff greatly appreciate
your memberships
as they affirm our place as an
important cultural entity
in Lowndes County and help us to
fulfill our mission—
To collect, preserve and present
the history of Lowndes County**

Larry A. Allen
Ben and Pud English
St. Augustine, FL
Robin and Jani McGhin
Virginia Mixson Story
Shelby, NC
Melba R. Weldon

2016 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. ____



MEMORIALS



Toian Bowser-Alexander

Bluffton, SC

by

Donald O. Davis

Cornelia Currie Ashley

Temple Terrace, FL

by

Jane L. Ferrell

Mary D. Gray

Catherine L. Redles

Sarah Helen Blanton Blanchard

by

J. Edward Willis

Robert Morris Byrd

Opelika, AL

by

Mary D. Gray

Sanford B. 'Sandy' Campbell, Jr.

by

Donald O. Davis

J. Edward Willis

Ernestine 'Tena' Coats Carter

by

Buelah Exum Hennly

Harriette Ashley Churchwell

Savannah, TN

by

Jane L. Ferrell

Mary D. Gray

Diane Blankenship Corker

by

Patsy T. Giles

Mary D. Gray

J. Edward Willis

Virginia Copeland Drumheller

by

Patsy T. Giles

Mary D. Gray

Alex B. McFadden

Rev. Cecil Donald Finrock

by

J. Edward Willis

Joanne Williams Griner

by

Alex B. McFadden

Patsy T. Giles

J. Edward Willis

Owen D. Harris

by

Donald O. Davis

Patsy T. Giles

J. Edward Willis

Harold Strong Gulliver, Jr.

by

Mary D. Gray

Judge George Henry Hart, Jr.

by

John R. Bennett

Tomie Jean Roberts Blanton

Donald O. Davis

Patsy T. Giles

Mary D. Gray

Capt. and Mrs. Warren C. Graham

Ashburn, VA

Alex B. McFadden

Allan and Debbie H. Nagy

Catherine L. Redles

J. Edward Willis

William B. 'Bill' Houck

by

Mary D. Gray

Albert Pendleton Little

by

Dr. and Mrs. William Oliver

Macon, GA

James B. Maddox

by

J. Edward Willis

Constance Henderson Mathis

by

Mary D. Gray

Rev. Robert G. McGehee

Decatur, AL

by

Alex B. McFadden

Marion McGinty Myddelton

by

J. Edward Willis

Phillip Edward Painter

by

J. Edward Willis

Virginia Burns Patten

Orange Park, FL; Albany, GA

by

Patsy T. Giles

J. Edward Willis

Floyd Hamilton Rogers

by

Patsy T. Giles

Jeanne Davis Rountree

by

Mary D. Gray

Stuart Scruggs

by

Dr. Calvin and Sue D. Reams

Thomasville, GA

J. Edward Willis

Charles Eugene Sheffield

by

George L. and Lucille Converse

Cincinnati, OH

Donald O. Davis

Patsy T. Giles

Mitchell Jones Smith, Jr.

by

Mary D. Gray

Dr. Thomas Harding Smith, Jr.

by

Mary D. Gray

Wayne Morris Smith

by

Mary D. Gray

Gloria Dalton Sorenson

by

Donald O. Davis

Jane L. Ferrell

Patsy T. Giles

Beulah Exum Hennly

Alex B. McFadden

J. Edward Willis

Dr. Robert Lee Stump

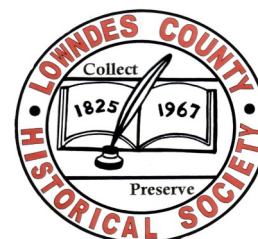
by

Mary D. Gray

George H. Wynn

by

J. Edward Willis



MUSEUM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 24 - 27Closed for Thanksgiving
 December 10.....Museum Open House
Program, Valdosta's Victorian Architecture
 December 24 - January 2.....Museum Annual Year End Closing
 2017.....50th Anniversary Year, Lowndes County Historical Society
 January—March 2017.....Annual Membership Drive

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

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<http://www.valdostamuseum.com>

YESTERDAY & TODAY

Newsletter of
 Lowndes County Historical Society

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 Executive Director.

Amy Brown
 Textiles and Research.

Harry S. Evans
 Benjamin J. Vieth
 Special Collections and Research

Adam Doughty
 Drew Johnson
 Social Media

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