

## Five in Lowndes are Registered: Georgia Centennial Family Farms

### Georgia Centennial Farm Award Recipients in Lowndes County

**1993 -McLeod Farms**  
off New Statenville Highway  
Isabel McLeod Allison  
1844 -Archibald I. McLeod

**1996-Zipperer Farms-Dees Station**  
Old Clyattville Road  
John Kyle Zipperer, Jr.  
1823 -John Dees

**2010 -Frank's Creek Farm**  
off Shiloh Road  
Shirley Hoyer Martin (Mrs. J. W.)  
1850-John Bradford

**2013 -Staten Plantation and  
Murray Staten Farms**  
Staten Road  
Edward Gray Murray &  
Murray Staten Farms, LLC  
1886 -James Watson Staten

**2014 -Moore Farms**  
Berniss Road  
Tommy A. Moore and  
Shirley Ann Moore Mallery  
1898- William Franklin Moore

Centennial Farm Awards began in 1993.



*Above:* At the museum are Edward Fail & Jayne Nunn Kirk of Tallahassee, and Linda Nunn Plair & Ivey Plair of Valdosta. In May the museum received an email from Jayne Kirk's grandson, Jayson Kirk, ninth grade student at Providence Christian School in Dothan, Alabama. He was wanting to learn about Staten's Dairy and Farm where his grandfather, W. L. "Willie" Nunn, and also his great-grandfather had worked years ago. These men were the father and grandfather of the Nunn sisters. The father went to work for Pet Milk Co. after the Staten's dairy portion was sold. We told them they were fortunate researchers as the Staten descendants had collected information in 2013 to be named a Georgia Centennial Farm Award recipient and information was even online. At that time Marcia Alexander shared Staten Dairy photographs and information with the museum. The Nunn sisters group also visited the Staten Farm.

### The Bicentennial of Lowndes County is December 2025.

We hope that this farm recognition information, in conjunction with our upcoming Lowndes 200th year celebration, serves as a stimulus for more Lowndes County citizens to seek Georgia Centennial Family Farm designations.

Berrien County has emphasized this recognition, having the most registered in the state. Off the top of his head Gordon Shaw of the Berrien County Historical Museum recently thought the Berrien total designations well into the thirties, but also told that a few families had sold their farms since gaining the recognition.

## The Georgia Centennial Farm Program

*For specific details and qualifications go to;  
www.georgiacentennialfarms.org*

We had always planned to include information concerning our Lowndes County Family Centennial Farms in a newsletter, so when the Nunn sisters inquired about Staten Dairy it renewed efforts to accomplish this task. From the recipients listed on page one, it is interesting to note, that with out design, the farms represent northeast, northwest, southeast, southwest and central Lowndes County.

“The Georgia Centennial Farm Program honors Georgia farmers for their contributions to our state’s agricultural heritage and encourages the preservation of agricultural resources for future generations. If one currently owns a working farm that has been in your family for over 100 years this special recognition may apply to your farm.”

### The Awards include

#### Centennial Heritage Farm Award

- Owned continuously by members of the same family for 100 years or more
- Listed in the National Register of Historic Places

#### Centennial Farm Award

- Does not require continual family ownership
- Farms must be at least 100 years old
- Listed in the National Register of Historic Places

#### Centennial Family Farm Award (All in Lowndes County are this Award)

- Owned continuously by members of the same family for 100 years or more
- Not listed in the National Register of Historic Places

“Participants who qualify for a Centennial Farm award are honored each year at the Georgia National Fair in October.

Sponsors; The Georgia Centennial Farm Program is administered by the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources in partnership with the Georgia Farm Bureau Federation; the Georgia Department of Agriculture; the Georgia Forestry Commission and the Georgia National Fairgrounds and Agricenter. It is sponsored in part by Georgia EMC and the Georgia Farm Bureau Women's Leadership committee.”

## Blue Star Museums

The Lowndes County Historical Society is registered as a Blue Star Museum. The Blue Star Museum project is a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and museums across America.

Each summer since 2010, Blue Star Museums have offered free admission to the nation’s active-duty military personnel and their families, including National Guard and Reserve, from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day.

Although our museum does not charge admission, being in this listing provides the public knowledge of our museum and that we support the Blue Star Museum project. The program requires registration annually and we appreciate Dr. Lucy Green for keeping us on our toes.



The **above** Staten’s Dairy image is taken from the 1955 Valdosta Telephone Directory. Most people over 60 probably have some remembrance when the various local dairies had “Early Morning Home Deliveries.” Phone numbers changed to the CHerry2 and CHerry4 system in 1957.



### Frank’s Creek Centennial Farm

**Above** are Matthew and Esther Marie Lawrence at the opening of the new Willis L. Miller Library. He is Vice Chair of the SGRL Board of Trustees. Matthew was chief researcher in accomplishing the Centennial Family Farm designation for Frank’s Creek Farm. Through his Martin lineage is ancestor John Bradford who purchased the original 245 acres in 1850. Vegetables and tobacco were grown. Today the main crops are hay, pecan and pine trees, and cattle are raised on the farm.



## Carroll Packing 100 Sunset Farm Foods

It is always interesting to work with businesses or civic entities approaching milestone anniversaries. Many come to the museum to check what the archives might contain concerning their project. On the flipside these activities provide information gathering opportunities for the museum.

**Below upper:** Stephani Carroll and Harry Evans. Stephani came to the museum to select specific and other images related to the 100 years of business. In searching the computer on Carroll Packing photos began to also show of Jimmy Carroll's football years at Valdosta High. Along with the football photos the museum could not resist including the image **below right** of Jimmy Carroll being voted Senior Favorite Best Looking in the 1957 VHS yearbook with Ruth Hightower (Smith) Prettiest. **Below lower:** Father and son, Jimmy and John Carroll at the 100th celebration held in conjunction with a Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours. The late brother and uncle, Bo Carroll was formerly active in the business.



The **above** photo is dated January 12, 1948, 30 years after the beginning of Carroll farms supplying meat product and 70 years before the 100th anniversary. The museum is always looking for additional business and industry photos.

100  
Years



*Prettiest and Best Looking*  
RUTH HIGHTOWER and JIMMY CARROLL

LOWNDES COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
AND MUSEUM  
VALDOSTA, GEORGIA



## Compiling the Record of Valdosta's Historic District Addresses and Blocks

Often when an owner is rehabilitating a Historic District property they contact the museum for early images of the current structure and also past edifices. Tish Johnson did so as her company, Tishco Properties, began renovation of the old downtown Winn-Dixie grocery building. Some younger than the writer refer to the location as Penny Pinchers. Their efforts garnered them the City of Valdosta's 2018 Preservation Award for Outstanding Achievement.

The photograph, *at right*, of the Johnson family was taken in City Hall just after the presentation: daughter, Rebekah Johnson Stevens; Tish Thigpen Johnson, Terry Johnson, and son Steve Johnson. Tish, a Quitman, Brooks County native, and Terry, a Pelham, Mitchell County native, met when students at Valdosta State College.

Tishco Properties covers the area of two addresses, 312 and 314 North Patterson Street. The business was assigned the 314 N. Patterson Street address. The building, however, actually occupies old 312 N. Patterson.

### Dr. William Ashley home of 312 N. Patterson

Two of earliest structures in this 300 block that have surviving photographs were both moved to Valdosta from Troupville circa 1860. The Albert Converse, Sr. house and this Ashley house at 312 N. Patterson, *photo at right*. The Converse, Sr., home was moved a couple of times with the final location on Briggs Street immediately behind the Carnegie Library. It was demolished during Urban Renewal in the late 1950s.

Dr. Ashley died young of illness in the 1860s. In this family is the name Ashley Street and the Daniel Ashley Hotel. Ashley Hall at VSU is named for C. R. Ashley whose father was a different William Ashley. The Ashley house became for decades the home of prominent citizen E.L. Moore and then his Cranford descendants. Circa 1950 the property was sold for the construction of the Winn-Dixie structure which is now rehabilitated by Tishco Properties.

Earlier, Howard Dasher III, Chairman of the Central Valdosta Downtown Development Authority, had contacted the museum for historical images of this block that are now on view in his business lobby at Prime Properties Services, LLC, 311 N. Patterson, Ste. A.

### Current Site of 1st Presbyterian Sanctuary Intrigue in Local History

313 N. Patterson. In searching this block an abstract mentioned a photo being taken of the H. C. Briggs home on fire. Information like this embeds in our minds at the museum in rare hope that any image of the structure surface. Found on microfilm in the 1895 *Harvest Edition*, while researching another topic, the line drawing *at right* with an article on Valdosta's fine new homes.





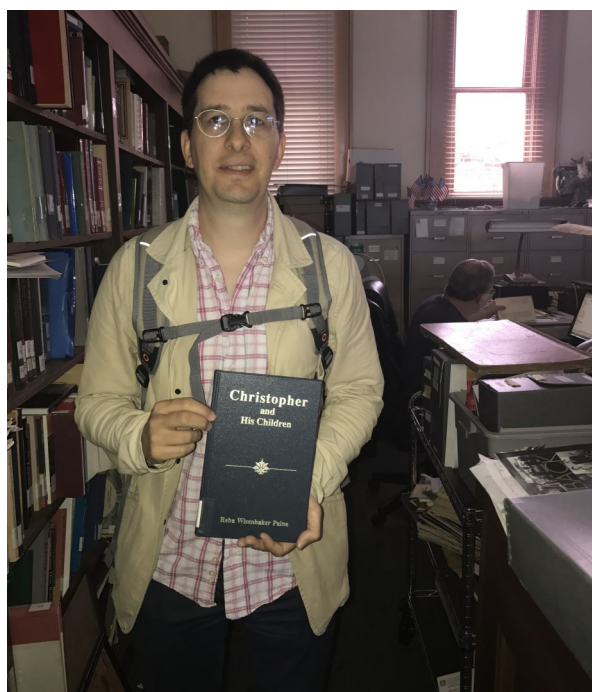


### Stump Home 1505 Slater Street

The home built by Harry and Marion Wilkinson Stump in 1921 was recently restored by Alex Alvarez and Derek Allen, CAADTA, LLC. It received the Historic Preservation Distinguished Merit Award. Joseph and Quinn Vallotton will soon occupy the home. Stump granddaughter, Anne Sockwell of Birmingham, AL, was by the home two years ago unaware any restoration was planned. She was most excited to see the “after” photos. One story the “walls” of the house hold is Marion W. Stump’s lifelong remembrances of her over four months 1912 Grand Tour with seven other locals. The museum has nearly 600 postcard images of this trip and often asks foreign visitors for additional information.

### Christof Weisenbacher “meets” Christopher Wisenbaker

**Photo Below:** Christof Weisenbacher of Siegburg, Germany descends also from the direct ancestor of the Christopher Wisenbaker who immigrated to America in 1746 locating at Ebenezer above Savannah. Christof is shown at the museum holding the book *Christopher and his Children*, which was painstakingly researched [before the era of computer searches] by the late Reba Wisenbaker Paine of Valdosta. This Wisenbaker family settled in this area in the early 1840s with part of their property becoming the original township of Valdosta. The original home site, with additions, became the Roberts House on Wells Street. Much of this Wisenbaker family migrated to Texas after the Civil War and a Texas branch cousin met Cristof here. As others have done, Christof offered to purchase the book at a premium price but said he already knew the answer, “The book is not for sale.”



**Above:** Peter Normann of Sweden. He came by the museum recently when visiting in Valdosta. He, as do other foreign visitors, became fascinated with this 1912 collection and began sharing information on the Swedish cards. **Below:** He made special mention of the two of the Skansen open-air museum, one shown below, the site of his parents wedding. We complied with his request for image copies.







## Nationwide Boyett Family Researchers

**At left:** Wendy Elliott of Placentia (Metro Anaheim), California, and David Boyett of Lithia (Metro Tampa) Florida. They met in Valdosta in order to make the most of information gathering and sharing while attending a recent extended family Boyett Reunion in Berrien County. At the museum they were professional in their research approach and knew what to do and got to it. They spent several hours in the museum especially using new publications such as *Lowndes County, Georgia, Deed Record A and Early Tax Digests, 1825-1860*, recently abstracted by Ed Hightower.

### Goins Family Reunion

**Below Center:** the Goins Family recently held an extended family reunion in Valdosta. **Center** in the white blouse is local family member Sheila Stacks. Others in the photo hail from New York, New Jersey, California and Florida. The museum was listed as an optional function and about twenty

attended. They enjoyed the Jingle Bells Christmas Tree, its story, and understood we have no place to store it while under renovation.

### Leadership Lowndes

**Below:** Damon Sefa, Data Software Systems; Brooke Jaramillio, Wiregrass Georgia Technical College; J. Bart Davis, Moore, Clark, Duvall & Rodgers, P.C. The museum teamed up with other downtown entities for LL Quality of Life Day. Inclement weather meant using Plan B, "Local Jeopardy." Even with missing members Bart Davis set his group on the way to victory answering "Local Joe Rivers became one of the first blacks to lead whites into battle in what conflict?" "KOREAN WAR"



**Above:** The museum enjoyed a most informative visit from Fred McIntyre, now 95. He told many stories about the Bell House having assisted the family. **Also:** His god-daughter Andee Ryan, Denton, TX, and John Miller, nephew of Florida,







### Left: Boy Scouts Caguas, Puerto Rico

Scout Troop 1001 included the Lowndes County Historical Museum as an educational stop on their visit to the US mainland. They flew into Orlando, stopped through Valdosta, and drove on to Atlanta. They scouts attended a jamboree in the Georgia mountains and then returned to Atlanta for the major sites. It was reported that some of the adults made it to a Braves game. The group of 29 included 19 scouts and leaders plus ten other family members. We often try to give those visiting the museum a Valdosta tie-in to their life experience.

With the Centennial Commemoration of WWI this year we have much on exhibit. Checking on Puerto Rico we found this to share with this group. "On March 21, 1915 the first shots by the United States in World War 1 were fired by the Porto Rico Regiment from El Morro Castle at a German ship in San Juan Bay." The adults checked the Internet and enthusiastically confirmed.

Most all in the group have significant Spanish heritage. While viewing slides we told that the first Europeans in Lowndes County were the Spanish establishing the mission Santa Cruz de Cachipile, 1623-1660 near the Georgia Welcome Center on I-75. Construction of I-75 first exposed artifacts for archeologist. Gypsy received attention also. **Left: Brunswick High Junior Naval ROTC** When this ROTC group meets its goals they are rewarded with a trip to Wild Adventures with educational activities at the museum. We tell them about Valdosta's governor M.E. Thompson getting Jekyll Island purchased and the bridge to it being named for him.



**Above;** Teacher Carey Dowse, **extreme right in photo**, and her eighth grade history class from Highlands Christian Academy at the museum for a slide show and scavenger hunt. Highlands Christian is now located in the Bemiss community having purchased the former Pine Grove Elementary School in Summer of 2015.



## Hollidays & Hills, East and West



*At left* are Richie and Haily Thomas of DeFuniak Springs, FL. He is also Richard Thomas, DDS, with his dental office in Crestview, FL. They are Doc Holliday researchers with a most extensive collection of his artifacts. They came to Valdosta while the Holliday house was for sale to enjoy a good look at the home. Just before this newsletter went to press we learned that the Holliday home was purchased by Tim and Su-sannah Dover Harris. Richie Thomas has offered to loan the museum several artifacts for a special Doc Holliday exhibit. We told him that would be a very good feature when we celebrate opening the annex.

We recently had business photo images donated by Debbie Nagy and Teresa Aldeco. Both photos include grand or great-grand parents. One photo shows Buchan's Grocery with ZuZu Ginger Snaps, Collins Bread, etc. They later had a drug store next door. The Moore Grocery and Service Station, photo circa 1950, was located in the NE corner at the convergence of Hill, Forrest and Central. Photos of these early businesses are new to the museum and enhance the historical record of Lowndes.



**Above:** Debbie Holcombe Nagy with an interior photograph of Buchan's Grocery 806 W. Hill (*photo right*) and later also 808.

**Below:** Teresa Futch Aldeco with photograph of William J. Moore Grocery and Service Station, 600 East Hill Avenue (*photo right*)



LOWNDES COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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## 2018 New & Renewal Memberships

(continued from previous 2018 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**

Buddy and Sharon Coleman  
Jan Shelton Danis  
Bethesda, MD

William A. 'Bill' Darnell  
Ocean Springs, MS  
John P. Dennis  
Gus Elliott  
Roberta George

Capt. Warren C. Graham  
Ashburn, VA  
Scott T. Grubbs

Jayne Nunn Kirk  
Tallahassee, FL  
Mike C. Lee  
Ray City, GA  
Ida Little  
Hawthorne, FL

John and Ann Lukens  
Dr. John and Elinor S. McGowan  
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel E. McGowan  
Wilmington, NC  
James E. McKinney  
Gretchen Smith Mui  
Silver Spring, MD

Randall L. Smith  
Mr. and Mrs. Tildon Smith  
Nancy Patterson Stone  
Clemson, SC

Buddy and Analease Walker  
Bob Wiggins  
Cartersville, GA

Kathy Veatch Williams  
Alfred Willis, Ph.D.  
Gary Wisenbaker  
Dr. Ron and Nancy Zaccari

**Randall Adams**

by  
J. Edward Willis

**Catherine Maxson Bright**

Saint Mary's, GA  
by  
Mary D. Gray

**Jan Howell Burns**

by  
J. Edward Willis

**Benjamin Edward Chunn**

by  
Donald O. Davis

**Lynnel Dasher**

by  
J. Edward Willis

**Dr. John F. Gibson**

Macon, GA  
by

Sadie Smith Harbin  
Jimmy and Stuart Lynn Simpson

**Wallace Pardee Goodloe, Jr.**

by  
J. Edward Willis

**Colonel Norman P. Huggins**

by  
Sadie Smith Harbin  
Jimmy and Stuart Lynn Simpson  
James A. Horton  
Quitman, GA  
J. Edward Willis

**Robert Lee Jenkins**

by  
Mary D. Gray  
The Parker Greene Family  
Dr. and Mrs. William W. Oliver, Jr.  
Macon, GA

**Vera Akers Johnson**

by  
Patsy T. Giles  
J. Edward Willis

**Alexander Bratton McFadden**

by  
Tommy A. Clark  
Belmont, MS

**Dorothy Peterson Neisen**

by  
Donald O. Davis

**Everett Daniel Odom, Jr**

by  
Carolyn B. Christian  
Donald O. Davis  
John K, Jr., and Susan Dukes  
J. Edward Willis

**Catherine Morgan Oliver**

Atlanta, GA  
by  
Donald O. Davis

**Clyde W. Stoeffler**

by  
J. Edward Willis

**Isaiah Hamilton 'Bubber'  
Tillman, Jr.**

by  
Jerry Nichols Byrd

**Thomas Lavelle Webb**

by  
Mike C. Lee  
Ray City, GA

### Family Memorials

**Everett Daniel Odom, Jr.**

by  
Rebecca Anne Odom  
Tom William Odom &  
Susan Hendricks  
Lake Worth, FL  
Rick & Danice Odom Tyson  
Mexico Beach, FL  
Cheryl Abercrombie Brewer  
Chuluota, FL

**2018 Membership Application, Lowndes County Historical Society, P.O. Box 56, Valdosta, GA 31603**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Category

Individual \$25. \_\_\_\_

Family 30. \_\_\_\_

Business 25/50. \_\_\_\_

Contributing 100. \_\_\_\_

Patron 250. \_\_\_\_



## MUSEUM CALENDAR OF EVENTS & DATES

### 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, John R. Bennett; Past President, Ex Officio, Julie Smith; Anita Shelton

100 Year Commemoration of World War I..... Exhibit Continues  
 August 17.....Fort Valley, GA Bus Tour Group  
 September 1 thru 3.....Closed for Labor Day Weekend  
 September 19.....West End Presbyterian Group  
 November 11, 2018, 11 a.m. ....Armistice Day Bell Ringing 11-11-11  
 November 22 thru 24.....Closed for Thanksgiving Weekend  
 December 24 thru January 2.....Annual Christmas/New Years Closing

**Renovations continue on the Mixson-Bird Hospital Annex**

**Situations may temporarily limit access to the museum**

### Lowndes County Historical Society & Museum

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 P.O. Box 56 Valdosta, GA 31603  
 (229) 247-4780

Fax: (229) 247-2840

E-mails: [research.lchs@gmail.com](mailto:research.lchs@gmail.com) & [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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Donald O. Davis

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Amy Brown  
 Textiles and Research.

Harry S. Evans  
 Dail Batchelor  
 Special Collections and Research

Adam Doughty  
 Drew Johnson  
 Social Media

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