



## Garden Center: 60 YEARS IN THE CRESCENT

On Sunday afternoon October 23rd, The Garden Clubs hosted a reception to recognize the 60th anniversary of their acquiring the W. S. West home, the Crescent. The acquisition in 1951 and subsequent restoration planted a seed for historic preservation in our community.

At the upcoming museum Holiday Open House on Saturday, December 3, Dr. Al Willis of Hampton, Virginia, will give a presentation on the development of the Crescent. Al is the son of Ed and Jane Willis of Valdosta. Ed is twice past president of the Lowndes County Historical Society. Al's master's and doctorate degrees are from Columbia University in Architectural History. More information on the Open House is below.

Three ladies, with others joining, are recorded as the initial driving force to save the Crescent from demolition: Hyta Plowden Mederer, 1912-1997; Jewel Whitehead, 1895-1972; and Corinne Briggs Smith 1896-1975. Corinne Smith was club president at the time of acquisition. Her husband was Dr. Tom H. Smith. Children presently living in Valdosta are Julia Bess Scott and Dr. Briggs Smith. Grandchildren living in Valdosta are Julie Scott Street and Pearce Scott.

The article at right, "Old Fashioned Gardens" was written by Corinne Briggs Smith in 1968. It is one of 15 stories that appeared in a booklet by the Wymodausis Club, *A Handbook for Good Gardening: What, When, Where and How to Plant in Valdosta and Vicinity*. The booklet was donated to the museum by Dr. Al Willis earlier this year.



Corinne Briggs Smith,  
*Photo at left,*  
Garden Club President  
at the time  
of acquisition  
of the Crescent in  
1951. The photograph  
is of her oil portrait  
that hangs in the  
Crescent.

### OLD FASHIONED GARDENS By Corinne Briggs Smith in 1968

"Time has brought about so many changes in our gardens, but the old fashioned gardens stand out in my thoughts.

My grandmother planted one of these gardens. Of course, there were some huckleberry trees, banana shrubs, the delicious smelling clematis vine, some phlox and dianthus, just to mention a few flowers. Her favorite flower was the rose, and she kept them tagged with slips of cloth: red, yellow, pink, and white. She could root these roses easily and in this way kept a good supply.

There were three japonica bushes (we now call them camellia plants) in this garden, a white "Alba-Plena" and two "Chandleri Elegans". We would send japonica blooms to my sisters who attended college in Virginia; the flowers were new to so many of the girls. The stems of the flowers were wrapped in damp moss and sewed down to the coat box. We were always told the blooms reached their destination in good shape and admired by all.

Most of the "old fashioned gardens" did not have a design; as you acquired a plant it was planted according to how the sun would strike it or if the ground were moist. So many of the plants were grown in what was called a "pit", this being a hole in the ground with built in shelves and glass doors. There would be different beds in the garden and sometimes the beds were outlined with brick. Often there would be a "friendship bed" where you probably had exchanged plants with friends and neighbors.

Also in these gardens, most of the flowers were planted in the front of the house and outlining the walks. The reason for this was that most families would have a horse, cow, chickens and vegetables and these were, of course, kept in the backyard, leaving the front for flowers.

*Continued on page 2*

***Holiday Open House***  
***at the Museum***  
***Saturday, December 3***  
***10:00 am to 2 p.m***

**10:30 Program**  
**A Remarkable House in the New South:**  
**Valdosta's Unique Crescent**  
**By Dr. Al Willis**

**Refreshments after the program**

**Also**  
**Book signing by Michael Holt**  
**Images of America: Valdosta**

***and the Jingle Bells Christmas Tree***

**305 West Central Avenue**  
**RSVP to 247-4780 or ddavis.lchs@gmail.com**



## 70 Years Ago: Remembering the Attack on Pearl Harbor



The above: from the Valdosta Times Nov. 28, 1942

*Continued from page 1*

There are still some of these "old fashioned gardens" in Valdosta. I might mention a few: Mrs. C.W. Barnes [at 111] West Gordon Street, as well as the J.T. Roberts family at 206 Wells Street. Visitors are always invited to visit the garden and grounds at our Garden Center on North Patterson Street.

Now we have our Garden Clubs which are legion since the founding of the Garden Clubs of America in 1913, whose objectives are to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening among amateurs, to share advantages of association through conference and correspondence in this country and abroad, to aid in the protection of native plants and birds, and to encourage civic planting. The influence of this group of women, looked to as most active instigators of the best gardening in their localities, cannot be overestimated, and spreads today for good in every town and village."

Other articles in the booklet were written by Hyta Mederer, Mrs. Guy L. Rice, Hulyn Smith, Virginia Newham, John B. Cook, Jr., Mrs. Fred Vinton, Eileen Langdale, Virginia Culpepper, George Kessler, Ernest McDonald and Mrs. John Okerson.

Corinne Smith had three children that have passed away since 2009. Georgia Smith Thomson and Dr. Tom H. Smith, Jr., who lived in Valdosta, and Corinne Smith McGehee who had lived in Alabama.

Former historical society president, Ed Willis, several months ago asked us to be sure to make recognition of the 70th year since the attack on Pearl Harbor on Sunday, December 7, 1941.

The image at left, is from the Charles L. Tarte WWII scrapbook, a recent electronic acquisition at the museum. Myrtis Tarte assembled the scrapbook. Descendants of Tarte living in Tallahassee brought the scrapbook by earlier this year to for us to scan items pertinent to our local history. The scrapbook also contained a clipping, photograph with caption, of the two man Japanese submarine captured at Pearl Harbor. Perched on a large trailer, the sub was taken all over the country in a war bond and stamp drive. Myrtis Tarte wrote in the scrapbook, "This was shown in Valdosta—I sold tickets all day in a heavy rain."

We have records in the museum of three area survivors that were at Pearl Harbor on the day of the attack which brought the United States into WWII. If you know of others please inform us at the museum.

"Hambone" Androcles Marius Larsen, Jr., was at Fort Kamehameha, Oahu, at the entrance to Pearl Harbor. He was startled by the sound of explosions about 7:55 A.M. His unit was not armed. Very shortly they moved into activity, sand-bagging the Army Command Post and preparing fortifications.

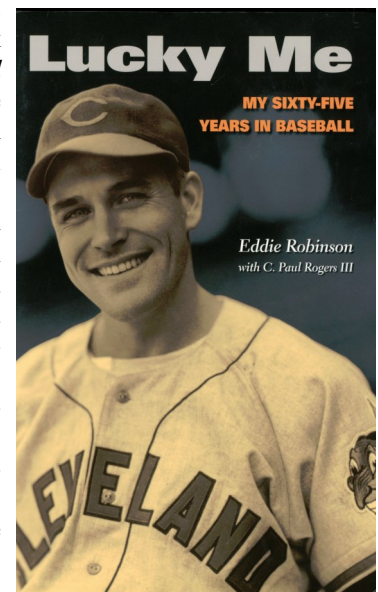
Walter James Gaskins of Nashville, Georgia who later became Berrien County sheriff. He survived the explosion and sinking of the USS Arizona at Pearl Harbor when it was hit by Japanese bombs. Dying in the attack were 1,177 of his shipmates. When the "abandon ship" order was given, Gaskins followed the guidance he got as a South Georgia farm boy—his father had taught him "always stay behind the fire" in the woods, never out in front." The water was covered with burning oil, but he swam to Ford Island, always staying behind the burning oil. December 1981 and 1984 *Valdosta Times* articles in the museum files detail his story.

Army nurse Lois Watson, a Lowndes County native, had begun her tour of duty in Hawaii June, 1941. She told of December 7, 1941, "We did have nearly enough people and they couldn't get us any help. Nobody went to bed for two days and it was Tuesday before we could get to town to send cablegrams home to tell our parents we were alright."

Lois's family had moved from Valdosta to Manchester, Georgia when she was a child. After her civilian nursing career, she and her mother retired to Valdosta in 1970. After her mother's death she moved to Alpharetta in 1976. Her story, in the museum archives, was recorded in the *Valdosta Times* in November, 1978 while she was in Valdosta visiting her aunt Mrs. Bessie Thompson, and friends that included Mrs. Homer Barrett of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary. Lois Watson attended the local Veteran's Day program and notice was made and her story recorded of being at Pearl Harbor on the Day of the attack.

### Where were you, your parents, when Pearl Harbor was attacked?

Lynn Thomas recently made us at the museum aware of a newly published book that makes several mentions of Valdosta, Georgia. The book is *Lucky Me: My Sixty-five Years in Baseball* by Eddie Robinson with C. Paul Rogers, III. He is now 90 living in Dallas, Texas. Robinson played on Valdosta's first Class D pro baseball team in 1939 and has photos from this first game at Pendleton Park. After two years in Valdosta he jumped to Class A in 1941 before fifteen years in the major league. However, he returned to Valdosta to work as a fireman at Moody Field for the 1941-42 winter with Ellis Clary. Robinson writes, "One of my best buddies on the Valdosta Trojans had been Pat Patterson from Pulaski, TN. Pat had enlisted in the Army, but happened to be visiting me in Valdosta. On December 7, 1941 we were having lunch in the Roosevelt Restaurant when a news flash came over the radio that the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor." Patterson would die in Italy in WWII.



# In Valdosta: Speaking to the State UDC Convention

By Donald O. Davis

Early in the year Cathy Wells asked me to speak at the State United Daughters of the Confederacy Convention for their Historical Evening which included recognitions for current military veterans. In the Georgia Division's 116 years, Cathy is the first state president from Valdosta. As president, she brought the state convention to Valdosta and asked for a speech on the Valdosta area's Civil War history. Cathy has done many research favors for the museum, there was no way I could reply, "No." I did remind Cathy that Valdosta was only one year old when the Civil War began and that our Civil War history was not of battles, but of upheaval in people's lives. So we decided to see what we could find and it led to the following speech to the convention. We were told by the attendees that they enjoyed it very much, and it was not your standard fair Civil War lecture.

Dr. Lucy Greene gave a fabulous "Valdosta Welcome" to the crowd and her husband Parker Greene was one of the veterans presented a military service medallion.

## Valdosta During the Civil War

Good evening, and I do appreciate the opportunity to speak to you. [Other casual remarks are omitted]

We know that all towns, that are old enough, have a War Between the States history because of all the local men that accepted their call of duty and went to fight for "the cause."

Other than the soldiers stories, "What do remote towns, far from the battles, such as here, have to tell?" Valdosta and the area, are an example of interesting stories that the War brought to them.

The items I share with you will not necessarily be chronological, but in an order, hopefully, to flow quickly by topic.

Some background. Coastal Georgia began development in the 1730s. Interior south Georgia was wilderness, the first census 1820, very sparse population, with no one enumerated in the boundaries of current Lowndes County. Just south of us, Florida statehood was not until 1845.

The railroad reached the very new and small town of Valdosta (station #15 from Savannah) in July 1860. Much of the former county seat, Troupville, had just picked itself up and moved 4 miles to the rail line. The presence of this new transportation is key to Valdosta's War activity.

How long would you expect it took for the first artifact, physical evidence, something from a war battle to be seen in remote Valdosta? What do you think? 3 months, 6 months, a year? How about less than a week!!!!

As railroad construction continued westward from Valdosta it reached station #19, Thomasville, in April, 1861. It is written that Savannah had anticipated becoming the depot for, "the Thomasville cotton patch."

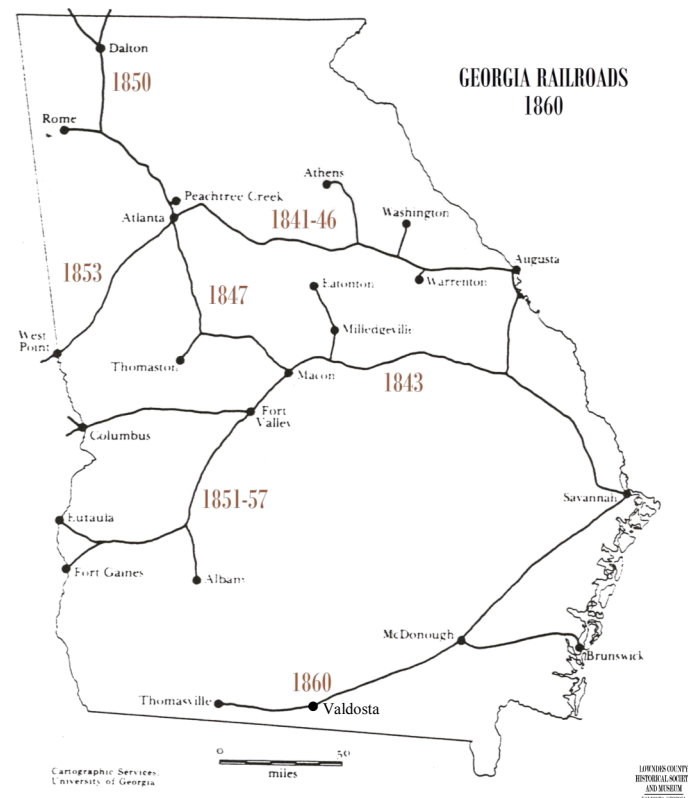
From the book *Ante-bellum Thomas County* we note:

"The first train, with a Mr. Naylor as conductor, came into town on April 16, and regular operations began April 17. Because the war had already begun, on April 12, the barbecue was called off, but the first train brought with it a 32-pounder, one of the first balls fired from Fort Sumter," in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina.

The earliest trains took 13 hours to go from Thomasville to Savannah. They waited at each Railroad station to coordinate with stage-

coach schedules, so at each stop across South Georgia, citizens got to see the 32 pounder from Fort Sumter just days after it was fired. Late in the War, rather than being usually the end of the Railroad line, Thomasville would be the source of a large troop transport passing through Valdosta and other towns heading to Savannah. The Confederacy was getting troops to Savannah via the back door, you might say, in hopes of thwarting Sherman's March to the Sea.

The most westward column of Sherman's troops had just taken Griswoldville a short distance east of Macon, and all columns were headed to Savannah.



The presence of the railroad allowed Valdosta its interesting Civil War activity and stories. The section built to Valdosta, Quitman and Thomasville was the last antebellum rail line completed in the state of Georgia.

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From the book *Joe Brown's Pets*, pg. 116, we learn of this basically unknown large troop movement across south Georgia.

"Leaving Macon by rail on 25 Nov 1864, the militia had taken a circuitous route to avoid Sherman's rapidly moving columns. They traveled by rail some 100 miles to Albany, [and with no further rail] then they marched [on foot] to Thomasville, deep in South Georgia near the Florida line - a distance between 55 and 60 miles, in 54 hrs. - arriving there on 29 Nov. Five trains were expected to transport them the final 200 miles to Savannah, but only two trains actually arrived to transport them from Thomasville. Consequently, there was only room for the State Line, the Athens and Augusta Batt'ns, and the 1st Brigade of GA Militia. The other three brigades of the Georgia Militia - the 2nd, 3rd and 4th, which had been engaged so heavily and suffered such

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grievous losses at Griswoldville- were temporarily left behind for lack of transport."

The largest troop movement in Valdosta involved the Battle of Olustee in Florida in February of 1864. Confederates were hurrying troops here to disembark, then march to Madison, Florida, then take trains east to Ocean Pond (Olustee) to engage the Union forces coming from Jacksonville. The Union held Jacksonville. The rail lines in Florida and Georgia did not yet connect. The Union wanted to control the Florida rail which would also let them take Florida's capitol Tallahassee. Another goal was to stop the flow of food goods and cattle out of Florida. There were no cattle from Texas after the fall of Vicksburg, Mississippi. Herds of Florida cattle had to be driven to this rail line in south Georgia to be transported north to battle areas. The Southern forces won the Battle of Olustee, but there being no newspaper in Valdosta, only a few personal mentions record the story locally.

### Col. Cay's Olustee Letter

One such Olustee mention is recorded in a booklet compiled by your own Cathy Wells. **Colonel Raymond Cay, 1845 to 1937**, was the last Confederate Veteran living in Valdosta, Lowndes County. He lived here his last 20 to 25 years.

This is a portion of his Letter, dated December 23, 1930, to the Valdosta UDC

Kind Friends,

Again I have to thank you for the big nice tray of fruit: - faithful to the end - is the record of the dear women of the South, your ancestors whom you represent today so faithfully!

"A pleasant memory of the good women of Valdosta goes back to February 1864 on our way to Olustee from Charleston we (the 5<sup>th</sup> Ga Calvary) were detained at the depot here and camped that night in the pines on the south side of the railroad. As usual the ladies busied themselves to entertain us and soon had servants bringing food - hot coffee and all kind of good things - and our 1,000 men had a good hot supper. At night a string band was procured & in a good sized hall - over a store I think - dancing began that lasted most all night.

The young ladies said they would not go home as long as a single soldier wanted to dance and they all did I think. Many lovely girls were dancing but the belle of the evening was a beautiful brunette, a refugee from St. Mary's, Miss Laura (Bachlett?) - all of the boys went crazy over this charming girl. In fact, she was the toast of the regiment for many a day - and she is all the name I can remember of the nice people here who treated us so nicely.

At daylight we were in our saddles on the march to Olustee--"

### A child named Valdosta

Another veteran of Olustee wrote years later that he was treated so well in Valdosta that he wanted to name his first child Valdosta, and yes he did, the girl was named Valdosta. I am sure his first son was, for his entire life, thankful that he was not firstborn in the family.

### Refugees to Valdosta

The Battle of Olustee leads us to stories of people who refu-

geed here.

One young lady/girl who refugeeed here from Glynn County, Sterling Plantation, with her mother was Gulie English Riley. Her preserved letters speak of her mother strewing the road just south of Valdosta with potatoes for the passing soldiers on the way to Olustee to pocket and carry with them. Her home became a "Comfort House" for the wounded a few days later as soldiers returned to Valdosta to take the train back to other battlefields.

The Riley's acquired a governess/ teacher for Gulie while refugeeing in Valdosta. And who did this bring to Valdosta? Are any of you Southern Baptist or have that family heritage? Has your church lit each light on the Christmas tree as you reached your foreign mission goal? Before she went to China, before she would be called, "the patron saint of Southern Baptist missionaries." This missionary is esteemed by Baptists as is Mother Theresa by Catholics. Yes, young Lottie Moon came from Virginia to Valdosta during the War and was a governess/teacher to the refugee Riley family, especially to the daughter Gulie.



Archibald and Anne

I am sure that some of you are familiar with the 1845 Archibald Smith Plantation Home, now a museum, in Roswell, Georgia just above Atlanta. The Archibald Smith, Sr. family, refugeeed to Valdosta during the War. His son, Archie Smith, Jr, a Confederate soldier would meet the just mentioned Miss Gulie Riley and they married in 1870. Archibald Smith, Sr., and other War refugees, in 1864, brought something new to Valdosta, The Presbyterian Church. Imagine, establishing a denomination in the piney woods of South Georgia that actually expected clergy to be educated.

### One other of many refugee families:

Henry Burroughs Holliday came to Valdosta from the Griffin area in early 1864 and purchased land. After a few weeks he returned with his wife, son, and many of his wife's McKey family relatives and in-laws. His son was John Henry Holliday who would attend the Valdosta Institute, graduate from dental school in Philadelphia, and become the infamous "Doc Holliday" of western lore. The father, H.B. Holliday, would become a mayor of Valdosta.



John Henry 'Doc' Holliday

Now to a younger brother of H.B. Holliday, Robert Kennedy Holliday and his wife, Mary Anne Fitzgerald Holliday. They lived in Jonesboro, earlier Fayetteville. They had moved to the railroad. She was from one of the very few Catholic families in Georgia outside Savannah. Robert Holliday was young enough to serve in the War. Even in the midst of war, when he was home on

furlough in February 1864, he takes his two oldest daughters, Martha and Lucy, ages 14 and 12, to St. Vincent's girls school in Savannah, the mother desiring that they receive some Catholic education. The oldest daughter Martha would later become a Catholic Nun and later record family War events.

#### Now to Late August, 1864

Note the situation of Mary Anne Fitzgerald Holliday: Her husband is off at war, her two oldest daughters are away at school, she is at home with several young children, she is keeping a gravely ill uncle, So even with Sherman surrounding Atlanta, she has not been able to leave Jonesboro. She had kept the uncle for several years, a holy man, sick for months now on his deathbed. He dies August 28 and they carry his body from Jonesboro to the Catholic cemetery plot in Fayetteville for burial on August 29<sup>th</sup>. Daughter Martha Holliday later writes, "This same road over which the funeral procession traveled was filled with blue coats the very next day."

The mother Mary Anne Holliday feared the situation in Jonesboro and since battle seemed imminent, on August 30, she took her children to a relative's farm a few miles from town. Over the next three days The Battle of Jonesboro occurred, closing the rail line to Macon, and securing Union victory in the Atlanta Campaign.

**2 weeks pass** – The mother and children return to Jonesboro finding only the framework of their house remaining. It had furnished timber to the Union troops for defensive breastworks.

**2 more weeks** – She arranged their civilian evacuation, as Sherman wanted. They began in a box car heading south with a remnant of household goods

**It took 2 more weeks** of intermittent rail travel to get 40 miles past Macon to the town of Gordon. They passed by the town of Griswoldville, soon to become a battlefield, between Macon and Gordon.

They had to exit their box-car and **waited 2 more weeks** in Gordon for transport, and then on to Savannah, to continue to South Georgia. The eldest daughter Martha, that later became the nun, wrote, "And so at the end of a long and tiresome journey of several hundred miles they reached Valdosta, Georgia,



Margaret Mitchell

and the car stopped. There stood H. B. Holliday, her brother in law, [ in town from his farm] hitching his horse to a rack. He did not know of her coming. She had no means of communication, but God in whom she trusted, arranged for her here, as in every other circumstance of that eventful journey." Writings on the family state



Martha Holliday  
Sister Melanie

that the 2 older girls in school in Savannah "made their way to Valdosta."

#### Who is this Martha?

Who is this Martha that recorded the story, and refugee to Valdosta. She was Doc Holliday's close 1<sup>st</sup> cousin, with whom he maintained correspondence his entire life. She became a Catholic nun with the name Sister Melanie. She would live to age 90 dying in 1939. Who else knew her well? Who was her 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin on the Catholic Fitzgerald side? It was Margaret Mitchell who wrote *Gone With the Wind*, who spoke with her cousin, Sister Melanie, and learned of family Civil War intrigues. It was from her dear cousin Sister Melanie, that Margaret Mitchell formed and named the character Melanie in *Gone With the Wind*. A "Real Melanie", Yes, and the "Real Melanie" refugee in Valdosta, Georgia, during the Civil War.

Sister Melanie also told Margaret Mitchell about Doc Holliday, and a character in the book, not the movie, Philippe Robillard, cousin to Scarlett O'Hara's mother, is modeled from Sister Melanie's stories about Doc Holliday.

#### Now, as a Memorial - A Soldier's Letter

This letter was recorded in the book, *The History of Brooks County Georgia* by Judge Folks Huxford, published 1941.

"The following letter was written to Mr. W. H. Rogers of Brooks County by a former Yankee soldier, and reflects the strong feeling of kindness and sympathy which in so many instances was manifested by soldiers on both sides. The letter is in possession [in 1940] of Mr. Rogers' descendants. He cherished it as long as he lived."

Augusta, Maine, Aug 1, 1866

Mr. Wm. H. Rodgers,

My Dear Sir:

I will now do a duty which I have been prevented from doing before on account of a want of mail facilities.

I have been a soldier in the Federal Army; was at the Battle of Cedar Creek, Va. On the 19<sup>th</sup> of Oct. 1864, just at night of this day as we were advancing over ground lately gained, I came upon a soldier in gray uniform whose intelligent and expressive countenance so attracted my attention I could not resist the temptation to stop and learn something of him. He was a Sergeant in Company "G" (I think), 26<sup>th</sup> Georgia Regiment, and his name was Rodgers but the first name I have forgotten. He was wounded in the left breast and seemed conscious that he had but a short time to live. He told me he had a brother (older, I think) lying dead but a few rods away. He was calm, quiet and resigned and said he would feel no anger for those who had caused his wound, as they, like himself, felt that they were doing their duty. He seemed as quiet as though sleeping, suffering no pain. I gave him a drink of water, placed his blanket comfortably under his head and pinned his name, regiment and company upon it.

In answer to my inquiry whether he wished any word sent any friend or relative if ever opportunity offered, he said: "If ever this war is over and you can, write my father who lives in Quitman, Ga., and tell him where I died." He then gave me your address. Reluctantly I left him, feeling as though leaving a friend, so strongly had his quiet demeanor and forgiving spirit impressed me. In those few minutes I had I did not know whether he died or lived for I could never find time to return to



*Continued from page 5*

the spot although wishing to do so, but often has my mind returned to that spot, surrounded by those scenes of duty which everywhere met the eye in Shendoah Valley, with the autumn sun sinking behind the mountains; and have felt at times, when weary with the perplexities of life, almost envious of the quiet repose of the brave soldier.

It would gratify me to know if you receive this. Anything directed to Augusta, Me., care "Maine Farmer" [a newspaper] will reach me.

I am, dear Sir, with great respect,  
Your Obedient Servant,  
Lagrange Severance

The unfortunate soldier Mr. Severance stopped to minister to, was Sgt. Mitchell Adams Rodgers, and the other brother referred to in the letter was Uriah J. Rodgers, one of the first school teachers in Brooks county. Both were sons of Mr. W. H. Rodgers.

An Internet search shows that Lagrange Severance of Maine entered medical school in Ohio in 1868 and upon completion was a physician for the remainder of his life in Indiana.

It makes one wonder if his experiences in the battle field affected his decision to go to medical school.

### War Stories yet to tell:

Important War documents in Valdosta, but not about Valdosta.

At the museum is a very special, unexplored, collection concerning the Trans-Mississippi arena of the War, The Faries collection. Faries and family were from Brooks and Lowndes Counties. He was a widower and spent his last years here in Valdosta. He spent much of the War in Louisiana. A gentleman from New Orleans visited our local museum earlier this year. He is a Confederate flag expert and volunteers his knowledge to the Civil War Museum in New Orleans, which was founded in 1891. While he was here to see flags, we took the opportunity to quiz him on documents in the Faries collection. Looking through the folders, he said this might be the largest unknown collection of original Trans-Mississippi Confederate documents in existence. He noted that after the fall of Vicksburg the Union controlled the Mississippi River. It is known that Confederates stymied Union river shipments with hit and run tactics. He said that among documents in this collection are the only detailed descriptions of shoreline Confederate bombardments of Union boats on the Mississippi River that he has ever seen. He said the collection contains information that is unique and valuable to historians and genealogists.

As the Sesquicentennial Commemoration of the War continues, we hope to make the information in this collection accessible.

We have applied for a grant to process this collection. Please keep your fingers crossed for us.

### And now in closing:

So that you might always keep a remembrance of this convention, and perhaps the story of the "Real Melanie,"

I close similarly as was said in *Gone With the Wind*,

"Frankly my Dear Ladies,

I sure am glad you came to visit us —  
here in Valdosta, Georgia."



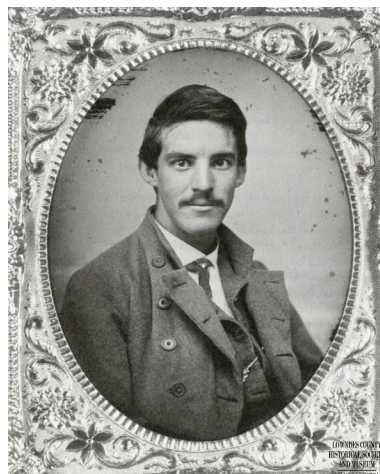
**Above:** Mr. and Mrs. Shelley Decker, and Amy Brown upstairs in the museum after Sammy Dees' presentation. Amy told them information on the 1860s day dress clothing. This exhibit was also shown at the State UDC convention held in Valdosta.



Col. Thomas A. Faries  
whose Civil War papers are  
archived at the museum



A young Lottie Moon who became  
the "patron saint" of Southern  
Baptist missionaries



Archie Smith, **left**, married Gulie Riley, **right**. They met in Valdosta when their families refugeeed here during the War.\*

\* Note: The Smith information is from the book ***The Death of a Confederate, Selections from the Letters of the Archibald Smith Family of Roswell, Georgia, 1864-1956***, edited by Skinner and Skinner. The three Smith photos were printed in the book courtesy of the Georgia Department of Archives and History.



## GWTW Presentation

On August 28, Sammy Dees gave a program on his vintage *Gone With the Wind* collection. The program and exhibit sprang from Georgia Public Broadcastings recognition of the 75th Anniversary of the publishing of Margaret Mitchell's book. Donald Davis introduced the program with a local tie-in, "What did Doc Holliday and Margaret Mitchell share in common?" The answer is in the UDC speech, in this newsletter page 6.

Sammy presented his program with a slideshow in the downstairs assembly area after which people went upstairs and viewed the exhibit at their leisure. A committee brought very tasty refreshments. Society president Patsy Giles formulated new "Southern" punch recipes, Scuppernon Peach and Muscadine.

In addition to Sammy Dees' GWTW exhibit upstairs, Jeremy Petrella was present to describe his Civil War Soldier's Life Exhibit and Amy Brown had prepared an 1860s clothing exhibit.

The exhibit will be up through February 2012. People have enjoyed Sammy's presentation, so we may plan a repeat program in January or February. An exhibit recognizing the 100th Anniversary of the Chamber of Commerce will be prepared and installed for March 2012 and the remainder of the year.

Marion Godwin Gulliver was present. She was chosen to be Vivien Leigh (Scarlet O'Hara) for the 1961 Centennial GWTW showing in Valdosta. The dress she wore as "Scarlett" is on display at the museum. Her husband, Harold Gulliver, was editorial editor of the Atlanta Journal Constitution [AJC]. Also present was Kay Powell, nationally awarded, was long time obituary editor for the AJC. Kay Powell and Kate Culpepper Swiderski have been in the museum doing research for their upcoming VHS Class of 1962 50th reunion.



Mother and daughter: Betty Holcombe and Debbie Nagy



Teachers: Eloise Cupp, Melissa Stephenson, and Gnann Moser



Sammy Dees and Eleanor Howard



Delaine and Albert Slone enjoy refreshments



Marion Godwin Gulliver, and Kay Powell of Atlanta.



After the program upstairs looking at the exhibits: Columbus Carter, Ed Willis and Eleanor Howard



## Outdoor Exhibits: Pioneer home replica completed



At left is the pioneer replica house, the structure now completed in the outdoor exhibit area on the museum grounds. The structure was built by Roger Johnson and crew. They have built and repaired other items in the museum and on the property. The house is the minimum size structure that someone, who was a "Fortunate Drawer" in the land lottery, had to build to claim their land. It will take a while for contents and signage to be researched and prepared for the structure. A future function will feature our "slow progress" on the rear grounds.

Also at left are Georgia Cyber Academy students at the entrance to the pioneer house. They were the first to see the completed house and were interested in learning why some very early homes in the area had wooden chimneys.

The Georgia Cyber Academy is public education with parents using computer classes to teach the children. This was a planned area field trip for them with about 25 total attending, ranging from Thomsville to Folkston and in between.



### 2011 Memberships

(con't. from previous newsletters)

Letty Allen  
 Bill and Camille Davis  
 Tallahassee, Florida  
 Sadie Smith Harbin  
 Scott Miller  
 Judge and Mrs. H. Arthur McLane  
 Floyd Moon  
 Ben and Jane Stanaland  
 Mary Lott Walker  
 Blackshear, GA  
 Henry E. Wood



**Above:** Jessie Felma Moore of Alexandria, Virginia, recently donated his father's WWI helmet to the museum. His father was Staten Felma Moore whose WWI story is recorded in our December 2002 newsletter issue. It is a WWI Brodie helmet with weathered dazzle camouflage. Jessie Moore is long time Historical Society member and wrote the book, *And One More Thing... Life on a South Georgia Farm, 1932 to 1949, A Memoir*.

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Earlier in the year John Sineath, **photo below**, came by the museum to see if our archives had historical information on certain properties. In discussion he told us that he had items that the museum might want to archive or display. He returned several weeks later with items in relation to Sineath Funeral Home. At **left below** is a postcard he donated of the Sineath Funeral Home at 308 N. Patterson. It had been the Albert Converse home which was built ca1900. The south portion of the lawn was sold and in the 1940 City Directory is listed as Ritz Soda Shop. It is now the location of 306 North Restaurant. McGowan's occupied the home, it then became vacant, and the 1958 City Directory is the last listing of this house before demolition.



JOHN SINEATH FUNERAL HOME, 308 N. PATTERSON ST., VALDOSTA, GA.

C-423







Different occasions bring us photographs that we did not know existed. When the Kappa Alpha Order chapter at VSU celebrated their 40th Anniversary at Homecoming in October, this photograph came to light. The above Valdosta KA alumni attended the chartering banquet of the local chapter in November of 1971. Half of the above were UGA graduates with the others being Georgia Tech, Emory, Vanderbilt, Randolph Macon (VA) and Transylvania (KY). From left to right: Wade Coleman, Rusty Griffin, Dr. Jim Mathis, Bill Eager, Tom Scott, Jack Gayle, I.H. Bubber Tillman, Judge Henry Brice, Dr. Tom Moseley, Conner Thomson, Harrison Tillman, Jimmy Dewar, Dr. Joe Brannen and Frank Eldridge.

## Memorials

### Jane Elizabeth Sims Adams

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

### Roscoe Carl Adams

by  
Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Willis

### James McEntire Beck

by  
Lougenia Gillis Gabard

### Jane Marie Kennon Caudle

by  
Donald O. Davis  
Bob and Margie Dickerson  
Patsy T. Giles  
Susan McKey Thomas  
Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Willis

### Thomas Crawford Clifton

by  
Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Willis

### J. C. Cowart

by  
Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Willis

### Esther Hampton Jenkins

by  
W. Parker and Lucy Greene

### Barneta O'Quinn Davis

by  
Patsy T. Giles  
Joanne W. Griner  
Alex B. McFadden  
Rock Hill, SC  
Jane L. Ferrell  
Beulah E. Hennly  
Allen and Debbie Holcombe Nagy  
Anita Hatcher Shelton  
Susan McKey Thomas  
Dr. Mary Helen Watson  
Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Willis

### John T. Parramore

by  
Marvin and Lyn Dickey

### John "Pat" Patterson

by  
Donald O. Davis  
Nancy Wise Schmoe  
Quitman, GA

### Nancy Page Pearson

by  
Donald O. Davis  
Alex B. McFadden  
Rock Hill, SC  
Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Willis

### Ivey Plair, Sr.

by  
Beulah E. Hennly

### Gertrude "Trudie" Schroer Veatch

by  
Jane L. Ferrell  
Hank and Claire S. Lee

### Horace Reaves "Buddy" West

by  
Donald O. Davis  
Jane L. Ferrell  
Patsy T. Giles  
Alex B. McFadden  
Rock Hill, SC  
Morris Smith  
Susan McKey Thomas  
Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Willis

#### 2012 Membership Application

Note: Current members will receive a separate membership mailing in December. Others may use this form to join the Society for the 2012 calendar year.

\$25. Individual \$30. Family

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email/phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: LCHS  
P.O. Box 56  
Valdosta, GA 31603



## MUSEUM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 24-27.....Closed for Thanksgiving weekend  
December 3.....Holiday Open House: Program at 10:30 and book signing  
December 24.....Annual closing, reopen January 2  
January 19.....Learning in Retirement and Membership Program, 10 a.m.  
Valdosta History slideshow  
February 11.....Georgia Day program with James Jackson Chapter, NSDAR  
Continuing Exhibit....Sammy Dees' Gone With the Wind collection through February

### 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; Executive Committee: Mary McRee, Anita Shelton, and Susie Thomas**

### Lowndes County Historical Society & Museum

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Web page:  
<http://www.valdostamuseum.com>

## YESTERDAY & TODAY

Newsletter of  
**Lowndes County Historical Society**

### Newsletter Editor

Donald O. Davis

### Assistants

J. Adam Doughty

Andrew W. Johnson

### Museum Staff

Donald O. Davis

Executive Director.

Amy Brown  
Textiles and Research.

J. Adam Doughty  
Andrew W. Johnson

## YESTERDAY & TODAY

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