



Newsletter of the LOWNDES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Chartered September, 1967

305 W. CENTRAL AVENUE VALDOSTA, GEORGIA 31603

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In Use 100 Years - Our Carnegie Library Lowndes County Historical Museum

We could not let 100 years in the Carnegie pass without some recognition. The grant from Carnegie was approved in 1912. The building was constructed in 1913. The library opened in 1914. We are very busy and hope many current efforts culminate in conjunction with the historical society's 50th anniversary in 2017. The concise library founding article below is by Elizabeth Havencot from the DAR *History of Lowndes County* 1825-1941.

A community without a library is a community whose soul is asleep.

A library for Valdosta was the work undertaken by the "Columbine Club" many years ago. This club first purchased Webster's Unabridged Dictionary followed by \$ 40,000 worth of books, adding to this collection whenever they could. The city council donated the use of a room in the City Hall, where for many years "The Valdosta Public Library" was open every afternoon with volunteers from the club serving as librarians. For a few years the library was housed in the Wymodausis Club rooms in the Corbett Building on Central Avenue, but was moved back to the City Hall.

Prominent among the women in this pioneer library work were Mrs. T. M. Talbot, Mrs. M. R. Stevens, and Mrs. W. H. Griffin. During the more prosperous times of these early years a regular librarian was employed, serving in this capacity were Miss Susie Talbot, Miss Annie Kingsbury, and Miss Sallie Myddleton.

In the year 1912, Dr. T. M. Talbot opened correspondence with the Carnegie Foundation, securing gift funds for a building. In 1912 a lot was purchased on the corner of Central Avenue and Briggs Street for \$3,750, the necessary appropriation having been promised by the City Council and the present library building was erected in 1913-14 with Bishop and Greer, architects in charge, at a cost of \$18,000. Mr. T. S. McKey was appointed by the chairman of the board to inspect plans and specifications and overlook the construction of the building. In 1914 the Carnegie Library of Valdosta was formally opened to the public with Miss Margaret Jamison, graduate of the Carnegie Library School of Atlanta, librarian.

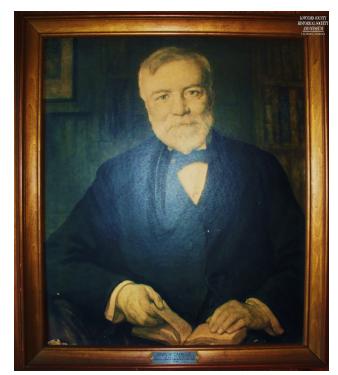
The library is the property of the city [now Lowndes County] under the direction of a self-perpetuating Board of Trustees, with two representatives appointed by the mayor from the council.

The original trustees were: Dr. T.M. Talbot, 1914-39; A.S. Pendleton, 1914-25; D. C. Ashley, 1914-20; Mrs. Frank Roberts, 1914-25; Mrs. W. S. West, 1914-35; W. H. Griffin, 1914-20.

Other trustees to date are J.T. Mathis, 1920, present chairman; Mrs. T. M. Talbot, 1925-38; Mrs. Howard Harris, 1925-37; A. J. Little, 1925; Mrs. T. M. Cook, 1926; Mrs. J.Y. Blitch, 1935; P.C. Pendleton, 1935, co-chairman.



In the *History of Lowndes County* from the minutes of Valdosta City Council "Mr. [W.D.]Peeples offered a motion, which was unanimously passed, that the city attorney be instructed to draw an ordinance establishing a Public Library in Valdosta, providing for its maintenance and the election of trustees. The ordinance passed on October 4, 1911, to establish a Public Library under the direction of a Board of Trustees.



Above: The portrait of Andrew Carnegie,1835-1919, hangs in the Lowndes County Historical Museum . The portrait was a Gift of the Carnegie Foundation of New York in 1935.

Andrew Carnegie and Libraries

Andrew Carnegie was born in 1835 in Dumfernline, County Fife, Scotland. In 1848 his parents, very poor, emigrated to America, specifically Pennsylvania, for a new life. The details of Andrew Carnegie becoming an industrialist of great waelth are on many websites and not covered here.

Grants from Andrew Carnegie provided funds for 2,500 library structures, in the United States, Canada and Scotland. He always remembered Scotland. One writer dubbed him the "Star Spangled Scotsman" as he never relinquished his Scottish citizenship.

It is interesting to note that the town St. Andrews, "Home of Golf," is also in Andrew Carnegie's home county. For perspective, Fife County, Scotland is 512 square miles and Lowndes County, Georgia is 511 square miles.

Concerning Carnegie Libraries, 24 were built in Georgia towns and 5 more at Georgia colleges. Georgia Carnegie buildings that remain libraries are in Boston, Cordele, Cuthbert and Pelham. Some near here that are no longer libraries included Albany, Americus, Dawson, Fitzgerald, Moultrie and Savannah. The only demolished Carnegie buildings were in Atlanta. As far as we know the Valdosta Carnegie is the only one in Georgia serving as a local history museum. Standing college Carnegie buildings are at Georgia Tech, Mercer, and Georgia State Normal School (UGA). Many Carnegies are on the National Register of Historic Places.

Below: As mentioned above, Andrew Carnegie was born in Dumfernline. It is interesting that the kilt pictured below, now in the museum archives, was made only eight miles away in the South Queensferry section in Edinburgh.

1976: Saving the Carnegie

Botie Chitty was a Life Member of the Lowndes County Historical Society. Once, in 2007, when back in Valdosta visiting from Atlanta, he was by the museum and began telling about the Carnegie being saved from demolition when he was on the Lowndes County Commission. He wrote the article below July 22, 2007. Botie was founder of the well known Singing Americans. He also compiled the book *The Valdostans: 99 Little Stories of the Way They Were* and gave reprint rights to the historical society. He died in 2009.

"In 1976, Fred DeLoach, Norman Bennett, and I (Botie Chitty) were elected county commissioners of Lowndes County. About that time the city building inspector, appeared before us and informed us that the old Carnegie, unoccupied, was 'falling down,' and he wanted to tear it down. Lloyd Greer, a master architect designed and supervised the building and I could not believe that it would be 'falling down.' I made the motion that we three inspect the site before making a decision. Fred and Norman seconded the motion.

I called Felton Davis and asked him to meet us for the inspection. Someone called Veran 'Bubba' Blackburn and another called Bill Amos, a local builder. When we all arrived at the library, I saw Bill and a fireman, climbing up the ladder truck, getting up on the roof which had an access door leading to the attic.

Felton Davis inspected the west wall, that the inspector said was 'falling down', and said the wall was sound. Bill Amos got inside the attic and discovered that someone, years earlier, had neglected to fully close the access door. Rain had dripped on a ceiling beam and rotted it.

At a subsequent commission meeting, we voted 3-0 to make repairs and later voted to let the historical society have full use of it."

Andrew Carnegie Would Like this Museum Acquisition



A few weeks ago we received a call at the museum from Professor Alex McFadden asking if we might want his kilt ensemble for our museum archives. He stated that he had it tailor made while on a trip to Scotland. I thought a few moments and asked, "Weren't you the founder of the Valdosta St. Andrews Society?" The answer was "Yes." I then replied that since this kilt is part of the story of the local founding of a St. Andrews Society we would accept it. The kilt is complete with the original invoice from Scotia & Caledonia Kiltmakers Sept. 30, 1999. The tartan pattern is Ancient MacFayden.

In the photo at left are Alex McFadden and the late Dick Nisbet at a December 2003 Valdosta St. Andrews Society Dinner. Dick's widow Margaret Nisbet continues as a Historical Society Life Member and has moved to Atlanta to be near family.

This founder's kilt, as an artifact, can assist in introducing the subject of local chapters of heritage and lineage groups.

Mailed from Indiana, a 115-Year-Old Photo Directs us to Dr. Tully M. Talbot And His Role in Valdosta's Carnegie Library

The mailing we received was postmarked June 3, 2014 from Muncie, IN. Chris Manning wrote in her note, "This photograph was found in a collection from my great-aunt, Mildreth Miller of Casstown, Ohio. 'Tully' may reference either a first or last name. If you figure out which home it is, I would very much like to know." Written on the back of the photo is "Valdosta, Ga. Aug. 1899, Brother Tully's home."

The photograph was new to us at the museum. It appeared to be a "city" photograph with the road close in front of the house and a home in the background.

The first quick search of "Tully, Valdosta, GA, 1900" revealed Tully Lineberger born 1900 Valdosta, GA.

Soon, searching old City Directories and Ancestry.com led us to find that "Tully" was Dr. T. M. Talbot and the home was at 201 W. Gordon Street. *Photo right.* This home still stands and is cat-



tycornered to the block of the W. S. West home, The Crescent. The 201 W. Gordon home recently housed a tea room. We at the museum developed a keen interest in this story as we learned that Dr. Tully Talbot, in 1912 "opened correspondence with the Carnegie Foundation, securing gift funds for a building." How glad we are at the museum to tell something about the man who secured the funds for the very building in which we work. Tully Talbot married Mary Murry, December 1890, in Monroe, West Virginia. They had no children. They are buried in Sunset Hill Cemetery, section C201, with their grave stones marked, Tully M. Talbot, M.D. 1859-1939, and Mary Murry Talbot, 1866-1938. Soon after her death, the young women of First Baptist Church organized the Mary Talbot Sunday School Class and they carried this name for decades throughout their lives.

At a recent Valdosta Rotary meeting I asked Dr. Robert Stump, who turns 100 in February 2015, if he had any recollection of a Dr. Tully Talbot. I had pronounced the 'Tal" as if in Tallahassee. He thought a few seconds and said, "Oh, Tully Ta(h)lbot, yes." He remembered Dr. Tully Talbot from First Baptist Church services as a "very old man."

Having the name "Tully Talbot" we could now search it on the internet. What searches produced was, "Tully Talbot Blalock, Tully Talbot Blalock, Jr. and Tully Talbot Blalock, III." The 1917-18 City Directory shows John T. Blalock as the neighbor at 205 W.

Gordon. John Blalock was very active here, being in 1912 the first president of the Chamber of Commerce, and compiling the information that had Valdosta written as the "The Richest City Per Capita in Georgia and the USA." Before 1920 the family moved to Jackson-ville, FL. Some other Valdostans of that era moved to the growing cities in Florida. In 1915, the somewhat older Blalock had twin sons and one was named in honor of the neighbor, Dr. Tully Talbot. 205 W. Gordon was previously owned by W. G. Eager. It was later occupied by Col. Raymond Cay, the last living Confederate veteran in Valdosta. In Cathy Wells research she published a 1930 letter from the elderly Cay to the UDC of his recollections of being in Valdosta overnight on the way to the Battle of Olustee, rare local information. The photo *right* is the 1904 Mayor & Council: O.K. Jones, J.W. Pinkston, J.T. Blalock, A.W. Varnedoe, Clerk, Mayor M.A. Briggs, Chief Calvin Dampier, M.R. Ousley, W.D. Peeples, & J.M. Harvey.



Neighborhood Development Streets: Patterson, Toombs & Oak intersecting Gordon & Force

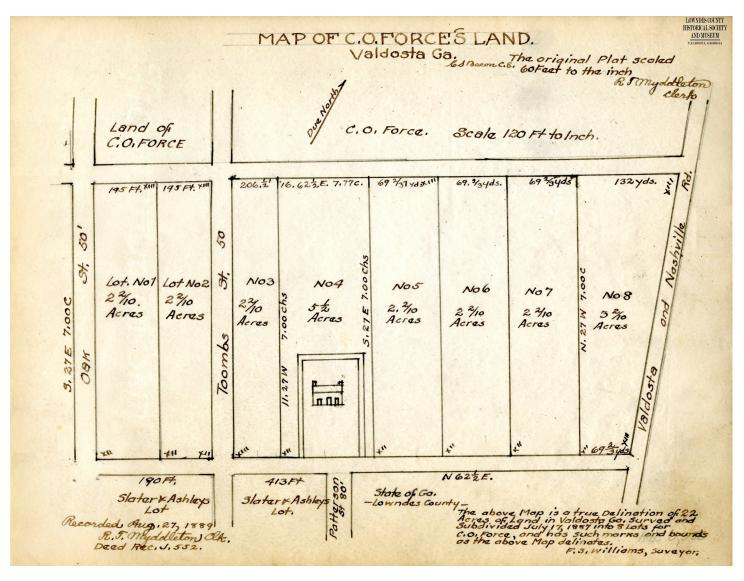
Approximately five years ago we came across a most interesting resource in the museum archives, an album of over 150 surveys from the 1880s into the 1920s. We are slowly getting to discover their content. There were no city directories until 1904 so maps preceding that date especially help us follow town development. The map below states the property was subdivided July 17, 1887 and recorded August 27, 1889. The town was beginning to grow. An 1883 map shows the city limits ending at North Street.

The names of north/south routes are written on the map. Oak Street, Toombs Street, and the Valdosta and Nashville Road (evidently not yet called Ashley Street that far out) are easily noticed. Patterson Street is listed where it T-junctions into the not named Gordon Street. The unnamed upper horizontal road is now Force Street.

Lore had passed the story on that the old Force/Patterson farm house, built before the Civil War, stood in front of the current Crescent location. It amazed us that ca.2010 a survey map appears showing the old Force house in just the spot told. Patterson was killed early in the Civil War and his young widow returned to Virginia. The Force family came to Valdosta from Rome, Georgia as Civil War refugees and, with few options available, purchased the vacant structure. The Forces were Unionists, but the house carries stories of Civil War Reconstruction Era intrigue. The Force family donated the land that began Sunset Hill Cemetery.

Patterson Street must have been cut through soon after this drawing as by 1900 a State Fair was held "way out" Patterson Street at Pine Park which was located in the Alden and Park Avenues area. Also an electric street railway system ran this same route. Valdosta's population doubled in size between 1890 and 1900.

The extreme lower left of this drawing includes the area where the Tully Talbot (*page three*) house would be located. The two blocks west of Patterson Street both show ownership as a "Slater & Ashley Lot." The Tully Talbot house was built on the eastern corner of the second block.



A few months ago Patty Kelly of the Weider History Group in Virginia contacted the museum concerning using the photo at *right*. It is on the museum website as part of a timeline. Weider group publishes ten history magazine titles. This photo was included with an article on the Lady Bird Special in the October 2014 issue of American History. She was very glad to discover the image and said the LBJ Presidential Library had nothing similar.

The Valdosta Times ran a news article, headline *right upper*; another article on the Johnson daughters Lynda and Luci by Mary D. Gray, the interview location listed as ABOARD THE LADY BIRD SPECIAL; and a Virginia Culpepper feature article covering the Valdosta ladies traveling from Waycross to Valdosta. Excerpts of the Culpepper article, taken from a trip synopsis publication, are below.

RIDING ON THE LADY BIRD JOHNSON SOUTHLAND EXPRESS

Lady Bird and her Lady Bird Express left Washington D. C., October 6, 1964, going south. The trip was to end October 9, at New Orleans. There were four stops in Georgia; Savannah, Waycross, Valdosta, and Thomasville.

"Valdostans Thrilled by 60-Mile Ride" Five Valdosta club-women boarded the train in Waycross for "the ride of their lifetime." Each woman quickly forgot sore feet from standing, and the warmness of new winter clothes. The five ladies were: Bessie (Mrs. Willis) Lang, Margaret (Mrs. Dick) Nisbet, Mrs. Harold Ember, Emma (Mrs. Joe) Stevens and Helen (Mrs. Walter) Schroer. They carried gifts of honey, jellies and jams, pecans, and Valdosta cookbook and turpentine, but became alarmed when they learned the gifts would have to go straight to the White House instead of being given on board the train. They were told not to worry, as Mrs. Johnson would get them. Lady Bird discussed a caricature of the President eating a biscuit and jelly. "May haw jelly," said one of the ladies, to which Mrs. Johnson replied, "I didn't know may haws grew anywhere but in Texas. I can hardly wait to get back in the White House to see all these lovely things."

In the photo at *right* Mrs. Johnson speaking in Valdosta with Gov. Carl Sanders behind. He died, age 89, November 2014. Records at the museum show he visited Valdosta frequently. Trips included the Georgia-Florida I-75 ribbon cutting, The Georgia Welcome Center opening, and the dedication of Mathis Auditorium.



Some Valdosta Cigar History

101 S. Patterson Street, at the corner of Hill Avenue, will soon open as Stogies Downtown, LLC. Those establishing the business contacted the museum asking if we had images or artifacts relating to the business address and any early Valdosta cigar history. This led us on an interesting "tobacco search" in the museum, with some of our findings included in this newsletter. In the postcard **below** the business occupant is Bennett's Drug Store. There is a large HAV-A-TAMPA sign painted on the side of the building. Note the Daniel Ashley and the 1895 City Hall that was demolished ca.1958.



101 S. Patterson Street Address History, Selected Years

1904 City Directory Joseph Marks, Dry Goods and Charles Strickland, cotton buyer

1908 City Directory Ingram & Ramsey (Di Ingram, F. H. Ramsey) Wholesale and Retail Drugs, Books and Seeds.

1917-18 City Directory Ingram Drug Co., Di Ingram Pres, W H Williams Vice-Pres, Telephone # 3.

1930-31 & 1940 City Directories Bennett Drug Store

1947 & 1949 City Directories Terry's Rexall Drugs

1950s into 1970s Bel-Lile Drug Store Dr. T. Conrad Williams upstairs

Note: Malcolm Liles, LCHS member; Richard Liles and Emerson Bell are sons of the Bel-Lile owners. During this time nearby businesses included Nicky's Restaurant (Balanis), and Hall's Childrens Shop.



The Lowndes County Historical Society Board of Trustees and Museum Staff Are grateful for all support shown us this year. We thank you and "Wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year"

Rodriguez Cigar Co., Valdosta, GA.

The stock certificate at right is in the museum archives. The One share at One Hundred Dollars each was purchased by Abial Winn in February, 1904.

The certificate is signed by M.R. Ousley, President, and R.P. Myddelton, Secretary.

The business is listed in the Valdosta's first City Directory, in 1904, as a Cigar Factory with the location at 137 1/2 N. Ashley. Additional information gives W.P. Dorough as Vice President and S. R. Jones as treasurer, then secretary treasurer.

The business is not recorded in Valdosta's second City Directory in 1908.



Notes on: Kelly & Company Manufacturer of Valdosta Favorite Smoker

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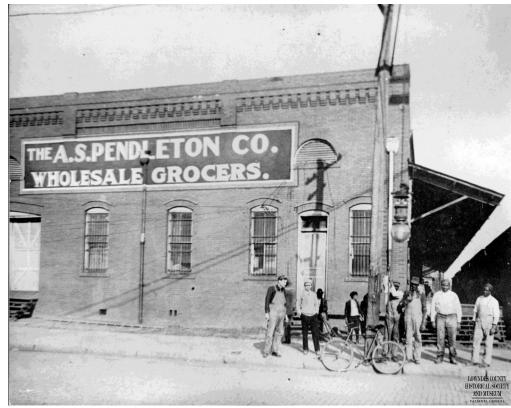
Photo left: The wooden cigar box is a rare item in our museum collection. It is the only product box we have of early cigar making here. The print in the box interior reads, "Kelly & Co. Manufacturers, Valdosta Favorite Smoker, Valdosta, Ga.

Valdosta Times Aug. 20, 1910 TO THE PUBLIC

This is to notify all persons that I have this day sold to J.M. Kelly my entire interest in the cigar business of Byrd Belote & Co. He assumes the payment of all debts owing by said company and is authorized to collect all outstanding accounts due and owing said company. The 16th day of August, 1910. 8-16-wlm Byrd Belote

The 1913-14 Valdosta City Directory, Vol. III lists: Kelly & Co. (W. E. Bryan, J. M. Kelly) cigar mfgs. 215 1/2 S. Ashley.

In the 1917-18 City Directory, Vol. IV, Kelly & Co. is no longer listed. However, listed is , Bryan Cigar Co., 908 York St. W. E. Bryan, h. 306 Jackson



Above: An early scene outside the A.S. Pendleton Co. which was located at 220-224 S. Patterson Street. They had an earlier location in the 100 block of S. Ashley but soon learned a wholesale grocery business did not need to be on three floors. Before manufacturing Tampa Dandy cigars they advertised themselves as sole agents of El Nationale cigars, especially mentioning Fama Nationale and Triumpho Nationale.

Notes on: Tampa Dandy Cigar Co. Valdosta, Ga. 222 S. Patterson Street This company is listed as a cigar

manufacturer in the 1917-1918 Valdosta City Directory.

From: *The Packages*, a journal "Published Monthly in the Interest of the Wooden Package and Package Stock Industries." In a column titled "Cigar Box Interest, Miscellany of the Box Users" is recorded, Valdosta, Ga.—Tampa Dandy Cigar Company– capital \$5,000— Incorporated by A. S. Pendleton, Chas I. Harrell and Others.

The publication *Barrell and Box and Packages* Vol. 21 pg. 39 lists: Tampa Dandy Cigar Co. incorporated, capital \$5,000.– A.S. Pendleton and others.

The United States Tobacco Journal, Vol.91 listed as follows: TAM-PA DANDY No. 29833 Tobacco World for cigars, little cigars, chewing and smoking tobacco. Registered Feb. 24, 1914, by B. F. Russell, Valdosta, Ga. Was transferred to Max C. Cook, Tampa, Fla. On March 27, 1919. Vol.4. NO. 52 HAHIRA, GA., THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 1928 Stockholders of Cigarette Factory Held

First Annual Meeting January the 10th.

The above headline is a portion of a complete article found in the museum archives during our recent "tobacco search." The article states, "The stockholders of the Gold Leaf Cigarette and Tobacco Company met at the factory here Tuesday January 10th for their first annual stockholders meeting."

"The meeting was called to order about eleven o'clock by President G. J. Coppage. After stating the purpose of the meeting a nomination was called for a temporary chairman and secretary. C. J. N. Clark, Sr., was elected chairman and C. I. Barfield was elected secretary." "The chair called for a report of the Board of Directors concerning their stewardship for the year 1927." The secretary, Mr. W. W. Lastinger, read the message to the stockholders.

The report states "The first important act of your Board of Directors was the purchase of 24 acres of ground, lying between the Southern Railway and the National Highway in the edge of the town of Hahira." Also stated, "Early this year, Messrs. Greer and Biggers, architects, were employed to draw plans and specifications for a building especially adapted for the manufacturing purposes of this company." The lengthy article closes with, "General Manager Melton states that all is lovely and harmonious in the new board and a great year is before "Georgia's First Cigarette Factory."



The Stockholders' Report of the Gold Leaf Cigarette and Tobacco Company also states that "your officers have every reason to believe that the products of this factory will be on the market by the first of February."

The report continues, "The name chosen for your cigarette is that of 'Oteen,' an Indian word meaning, 'Good Luck.' This will make a most attractive package; carrying on its face the figure of an Indian princess in her royal regalia, with a rippling stream at her feet, while in the distant rear will appear the teepees of an Indian village. The reverse side of the package will carry the fact that these cigarettes are a perfect blend of Oriental and Domestic tobaccos of the highest grades and types."

Oteen cigarettes were manufactured until 1929 when the Great Depression closed the factory. It was bought in the early 1930s by the Julep Cigarette Company of Boston, Massachusetts and manufactured Happy Days cigarettes for the Southern Tobacco Products Company of Valdosta until ca. 1938.

Note: We have the Oteen pack of cigarettes, *photo left*, in the museum archives. To our knowledge, it is the only known surviving pack of Oteen's. Internet searches have produced no images. Information on Oteen, North Carolina, now a part of Asheville, is the only Oteen mention in searches.

LOWNDES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AND MUSEUM

FAREWELL TOBACCO DANCE WITH JIMMY FLOURNOY AND HIS TROUBADOURS — AMPLIFYING SYSTEM — FEATURING SINGERS - ENTERTAINERS TWIN LAKES PAVILION FRIDAY AUGUST 21st. FRIDAY GIANT ELECTRIC FANS SCRIPT 99: 10 - TIL The post card at *left* reflects social activity during tobacco harvests. This card was for August 21,1936. Another similar one in our archives was for August 13, 1936. It is The Big Tobacco Dance, also at Twin Lakes Pavilion sponsored by the Valdosta Junior Chamber of Commerce. The cards were preserved by the late Dr. E. Ray Griner a 1935 graduate of Valdosta High. After WWII he entered the inaugural class of UGA Veterinary School, graduating in 1950. He owned Atlanta Pet Hospital. He died in 2013, and was a long time loyal historical society member.



Hazel Ray Barker by Hank and Claire S. Lee

Mary Catherine Covington Crane

Donald O. Davis Martha Norwood Gibson Patsy T. Giles Hank and Claire S. Lee Brenda H. Pridgen J. Edward Willis

Hallie Hinshaw DiMascio

Gina Copeland Drumheller

Margaret Smith Hendry

by Gina Copeland Drumheller Martha Norwood Gibson Patsy T. Giles Catherine L Redles Fowler and Anne Paine West Alexandria, VA

Turner Tillman Hooker

by J. Edward Willis

Mary Truluck Martin

by J Edward Willis

Ouida Holt LeFiles

Donald O. Davis J. Edward Willis

James 'Jim' Brooks Sineath

Gina Copeland Drumheller

Ann Goff Stewart

J. Edward Willis

Virginia Allen Woodruff

J. Edward Willis

It's Auction Time Again BEAUTY AND TOBACCO BLOOM IN GEORGIA



Everything's tobacco down in South Georgia today. The big barns are bulging with the fragrant, yellow leaves from the sunny tidewater acres, the sheds are ringing with the funny sing-song chant of the auctioneer, and a flow of gold has started rolling into the pockets of the planters. Arms loaded with the mellow leaves, these four young ladies are pictured in one of the big Valdosta warehouses. They are (left to right) Miss Kathryn Toole, Martha Franklin, Emily Parish and Miriam Quinker. Sales started simultaneously in 15 towns of that region. It's a big day for South Georgia.

Above: Circa 1940, an undated clipping in the museum archives, mentioning Valdosta but perhaps from the *Atlanta Journal*. Martha Franklin would marry attorney Ed Barham. Further information on this clipping would be appreciated.

MUSEUM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Ongoing Exhibit......Valdosta During the Civil War Era December 24 - January 3.....Closed for Christmas/New Years January 19....Closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day February 12....Georgia Day Program February 23....South Lowndes, Historic Points, Program Officers and Executive Committee President, Patsy Giles; 1st Vice President, T. Davy Shelton; 2nd Vice President, Martha N. Gibson; Secretary, Joseph Tomberlin; Treasurer, Redden Hart;

Past President, Julie Smith; Anita Shelton

Lowndes County Historical Society & Museum

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YESTERDAY & TODAY

Newsletter of Lowndes County Historical Society

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