



Above: On September 8, 1927 Howard 'Buddy' Dasher, Jr. was the first "Boy Baby" born in the Mixson-Bird Hospital. **Below:** Baby Buddy with his mother Mary McCulley Dasher.



Born in the Bird Hospital

Fred DeLoach was the first person we were aware of that was born in the Mixson-Bird Hospital. He and his wife Jean steadily attended society programs and meetings. He had years ago mentioned to us he was born "across the street." Soon after the LCHS purchased the building we were informed that Sonny Shroyer, Enos of the *Dukes of Hazzard* and other acting credits, was born there also. After that, we began putting notices in our newsletter for people to let us know if they were born in the Bird Hospital. We were not attempting an official list but a casual listing of those reporting having been born in our "opening soon" museum annex.

Recently an opportune circumstance helped lead to answering unsolved questions. When Donald Davis spoke a few weeks ago to the Colonial Dames he was seated at the same table with Laura Dasher. His "flowing topic" was on the Bird Hospital Annex including neighborhood highlights of old Briggs Street, West Hill Avenue and the new Georgia Brewing Company. During the luncheon Laura Dasher told that her mother-in-law especially, but also her late husband, told her of him being the first "boy baby" born in the Mixson-Bird Hospital.

Learning the date of Howard "Buddy" Dasher's birth led us to find significant hospital historical information. With the *VDT* not digitized we had no time to look through weeks of microfilm to learn the date the hospital opened. The Dasher information presented us a small window to search and the extensive *VDT* article of Saturday August 20, 1927 announcing the opening was found. Public inspection day was Sunday from 2 until 10 p.m. and opening on Monday the 22nd. **Article below:**

MIXSON AND BIRD 'S NEW HOSPITAL WILL BE OPEN FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION SUNDAY P.M.

Valdosta Daily Times August 20, 1927

(this article continues on pages 2 & 3)

"Superb in all of its details—up-to-date in construction and the last word in equipment—the new Mixson & Bird hospital, on Central Avenue, Stevens [now N. Oak] and Briggs Streets, will be opened to the public Sunday afternoon and evening from 2 to 10 o'clock, and the public is invited to visit it and see what this handsome new addition to Valdosta's institutions means. The hospital is located on the lot occupied by the old Burton home—where Dr. John R. Burton lived and served his generation, reared his family, and where Dr. Ben Burton later lived. The property remained in the possession of the Burton estate until it was sold to Drs. Mixson and Bird for their modern new hospital.

Owned by Doctors for Years

An interesting feature of this building is that the site has been continuously in the hands of doctors for approximately sixty years, being acquired by Dr. W. B. Folks in 1869. Dr. W. B. Folks was the father of Dr. Frank C. Folks, a very prominent physician and surgeon of Waycross who recently died. In 1880, the lot was acquired by Dr. John R. Burton who held it till his death when it passed to his son, the late Dr. Ben S. Burton. It

Born in the Mixson-Bird Hospital



was purchased from Dr. Ben Burton in 1922, by the present owners, Drs. Mixson & Bird, thus making it continuously in the hands of doctors for about sixty years finally ending in the magnificent brick structure erected by the present owners.

The hospital appears to be the last word in hospital construction and every detail is sought for the comfort of the patients. It has twenty-three rooms, all of which are up with colored furniture, thus getting away from the old time glaring white. This furniture is steel throughout, made by the Simmons Furniture Company who is a specialist in hospital equipment. The walls of the rooms are painted in old ivory, the floors being a polished maple. All rooms are equipped with lavatories for hot and cold water. The doors are solid panel birch and each door so wide the patient's bed can be carried through it to any part of the building for X-ray work or other treatment and patients returned to their rooms without being moved from the bed.

Most Modern Call System

The nurse's call system is of the very latest design, being electrically operated. Each call is registered in a light over the door of the room; also from a light in the patient's room and a light over the nurse's desk. These calls are automatically registered till the patient is waited upon, when they can be turned off. The telephone system is connected in all parts of the building with two trunk lines from the outside.

A room is equipped in the building for the superintendent, Miss Arrata Taylor, who has had years of experience in hospital management and needs no introduction to the people of Valdosta. There are rooms for other staff nurses with a private bath. (*continued below*)

Left above: Fred DeLoach, Jr., a recently departed very active and contributing citizen of Lowndes County. In September 2016 his daughter Beth Meeks bought him to the museum and several photos were taken of him in the old Bird Hospital where he was born May 17, 1928



Above: Cornelia Ashley, born. June 19, 1931. delivered by Dr. Bird her uncle. "Connie" spent much of her adult life in Tampa at Florida College and AAA Club of the South. Her pastor brought the museum dozens of her items that included clippings of **VDT** social columns written by her mother Peachy Ashley.

Memorial to Dan Ashley, Jr.

The operating pavilion is a memorial to the late Daniel C. Ashley, Jr. by his wife Mary Love Ashley and a bronze tablet is installed in the operating room in his memory. This pavilion as well as all the other parts of the building is equipped with absolutely new appliances. The operating table is of the celebrated Balfour type and was selected after due consideration and thought to acquire the best. The top is Model metal, which will neither rust nor stain. The room is equipped with a main shadowless operating light which focuses on the field of operation in such a way that no shadow is cast by the surgeon's hands or instruments. Another added feature is the installation of the Sclalytic shadowless light imported from France which operates independently of an electric current so that should the electricity to the main light be cut off due to storms or accidents in the midst of an operation, this light stands for use instantly by merely turning on the switch. This may never happen but it is installed for the benefit of the patient should such a contingency ever arise.

The sterilization room adjoins the operating room and is equipped with the new steam sterilizers, separately installed for sterile dressings, water, utensils and instruments. The doctors' dressing room adjoins the sterilizing room, being provided with all the conveniences for the doctors including hot and cold shower. This department is floored in hexagonal tile throughout. The windows are of tapestry glass and lets in one hundred per cent daylight. Two walls are finished in white and green enamel. The anesthetic room joins the main operating room.



Born in the Bird Hospital

In 1932 Drs. Mixson and Bird dissolved their partnership.

Battleship Linoleum on Floors

The hallways are covered with noiseless battle ship linoleum, it being the experience of doctors that outside noises rarely bother patients but it is the inside noises that disturb their peace and comfort. Thought has been given to keeping down all unnecessary noises inside.

An elevator is installed in the building for patients only. On the south side of the building a sun deck is provided for the convalescent patient's sun baths. A special waiting room is provided in the hospital department for patient's friends where they may be comfortable while waiting for admission to the rooms.

One of the largest and most bountifully equipped rooms in the hospital is a memorial to Mrs. Laura M. Blitch, and a nameplate of bronze is fixed upon a door as a fitting expression of appreciation of her life and character.

On the front floor of the building fronting Central Ave. is a drug store and prescription shop operated by the Yearty Drug Company. This drug store is equipped with new, made to order fixtures finished in walnut. The highest class of drugs will be dispensed and the prescription department will be in charge of experienced pharmacists. This is the third drug store operated by the Yearty Co. in Valdosta.

Offices will be maintained on the floor by Drs. Mixson and Bird and their associate, Dr. D. L. Burns, formerly of Piedmont Hospital in Atlanta.

Convenient Reception Rooms

The entrance to these offices is on the Stevens St. side. There are two large reception rooms for the patients with the business office between. There are two large reception rooms for patients with the business office of Drs. Mixson, Bird and Burns are on the south side of the building. Each office is equipped in the latest appliances for treatments, with two examining rooms adjoining each consultation room. An emergency room is also provided in this department for accidents. The chemical and microscopical laboratory is in the west wing of the building in connection with the offices.

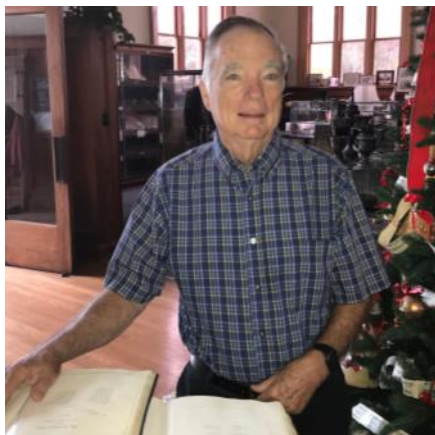
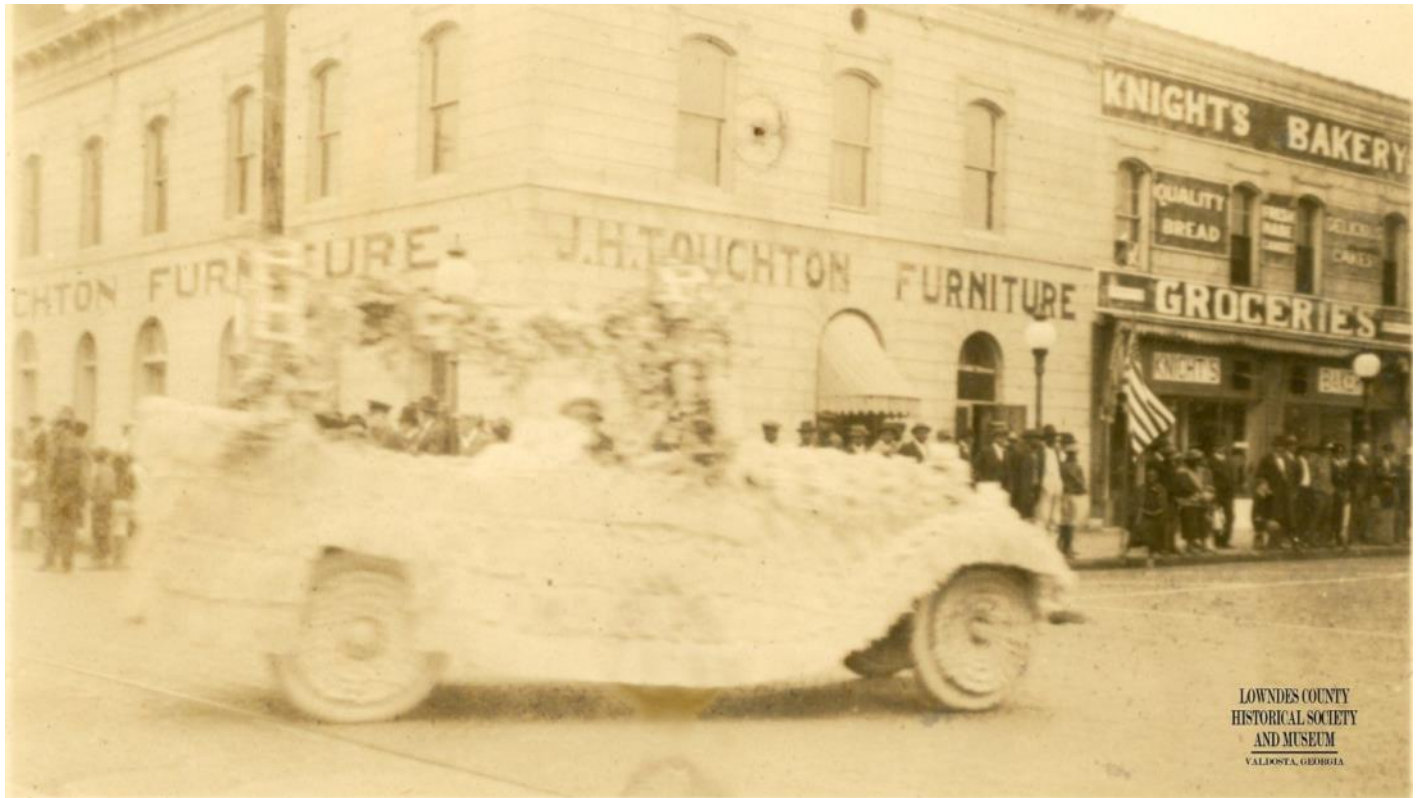
The X-ray suite is equipped with the famous Victor make X-ray machines including horizontal and upright fluoroscopes and other appliances for X-ray photography and treatment. The dark room and developing room as well as the treatment room is in this department.

Complete Ventilation System

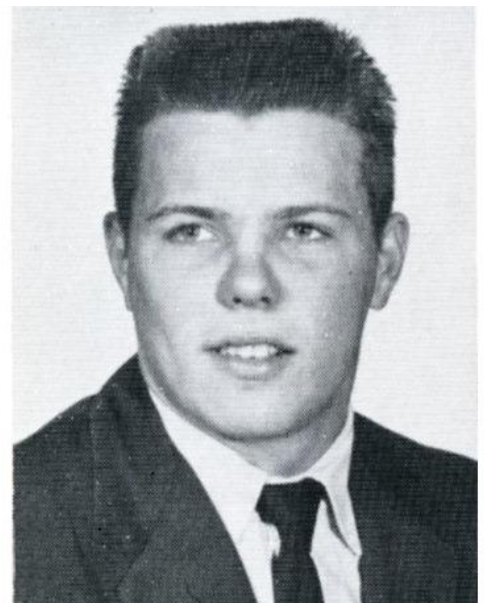
The building is heated throughout by steam and ventilated by air vents that can be opened at all times. Every thought has been for the convenience and comfort of patients, and each department will be handled by those skilled in their respective lines.

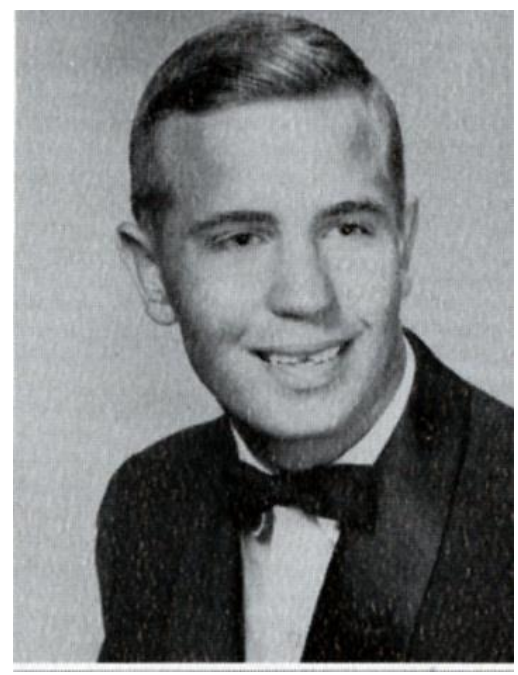
The building will be opened for inspection by the public on Sunday, August 21. A cordial invitation is extended to all to attend the opening. Attendants will be in charge to explain all features of this new building. An invitation has been issued to the members of the Lowndes County Medical Society and also to the doctors of the neighboring towns and cities to attend the opening. " (end of VDT article on the opening of the Mixson Bird Hospital)

Top left: Sara Sewell [Hendrix]. We were alerted to her Bird birth from being forwarded Facebook information. She was born in 1933 and married Ralph Hendrix immediately after graduating VHS. For her service to community she received the Valdosta Woman of the Year Award. **Photos left center and left below:** Sonny Shroyer, well known here for having played Enos on the *Dukes of Hazard* was born on August 28, 1935. While we were gathering the record of these births during 2018, the 10th anniversary of TitleTown USA occurred. We noticed that Sonny Shroyer had contributed to this achievement. Pictured in his football jersey, he was on State Championship teams in 1951 and 1952. The '52 team also became Peanut Bowl Champs on Jan. 1, 1953.



It seems true that every project we begin at the museum leads to additional information concerning our local history. **Photo left:** James W. Knight, Jr., currently of Penny Farms, FL, was born Sept. 30, 1936. He did not grow up in Valdosta but his family was here for his birth. He told of early family in Valdosta owning Knight's Bakery. The **above** photo was found in the Newbern Collection from a 1924 Armistice Day Parade. By 1925 the Knights were in Florida. The bakery lot is now the Urban Garden and Touchton Furniture the new Dustin Van Fleet Designs. **Below left:** Samuel McGowan born September 21, 1935. His sister, the late Ann McGowan Davis, reported his birth to us early last year telling that her mother told the children, "You cannot get sick. Dr. Bird is in the hospital himself with a broken leg." **Below center:** Charles Bryan born May 3, 1937 also told of later getting inoculations there. Looking for his photo we noticed that he won 1st Place State awards in Solo, Piano, Quartet and One Act Play. **Below right:** James Gregg Simmons, born December 12, 1937. He is also a part of the TitleTown legacy as his 1954 football team won the South Georgia Championship.





Jean Wells [Sheffield], *above left*, was born in the Bird Hospital on October 19, 1938. She wrote "Dr. Conrad Williams delivered me. He always referred to me as his 'Fifteen Dollar Baby!' Things were a lot cheaper back then! My parents were Russell Wells and Emma Lee Simpson Wells. Charles [Sheffield] and I even went to Dr. Conrad to get our blood tests before we were married in 1956. He was glad to see his \$15.00 baby!" Phillip Barr, *above center*, was born in the Bird Hospital March 26, 1941. His photo is from a VSC yearbook, in which he and his mother, and also an alumna from the first year, represented 50 years since the opening of the college. *Above right:* Tommy Hatcher was born in the Bird Hospital on August 18, 1941. As stated, when we began gathering Bird births in 2018 it was the 10th anniversary of TitleTown USA. We report that Tommy Hatcher is a part of the TitleTown legacy having played on the VHS State Championship Golf team in 1957.



Barbara George [Shapiro] was born on December 29, 1941, three weeks after the attack on Pearl Harbor. The article at right is from *The Macon Telegraph* December 31, 1941, it taken from the *VDT*. She told that Mary Dickey [Gray] wrote a *VDT* feature article in the 1960s on the 25th anniversary of this event.

'BLACKOUT BABY' VALDOSTA PRIDE

VALDOSTA. [AP]—She may be Barbara Anne George to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Carlo George, but she's "our blackout baby" to this South Georgia city.

Valdosta joined dozens of other Southeastern communities in a test blackout Monday night and Barbara Anne arrived right in the middle of the lightless hour.

Hospitals were exempted from the test in some cities, but the Bird hospital here went all the way and Barbara Anne was born by the light of carefully shielded flashlights behind blackout out windows.

MEMORIALS

Myra Leola Boyette

by
Patsy T. Giles
Lamb P. Lastinger

**Martha Lois Wiley
Cunningham**

by
Dr. Calvin and Sue D. Reams
Thomasville, GA
J. Edward Willis

Ann McGowan Davis

by
Donald O. Davis
J. Edward Willis

Jerry Lyndon DeMott

by
Mary D. Gray
J. Edward Willis

Blakley Drewry 'Blake' Ellis

by
J. Edward Willis

Woodbridge Parker Green

by
Donald O. Davis
Patsy T. Giles

Evelyn Hiers Henry

by
Donald O. Davis
Dr. Calvin and Sue D. Reams
Thomasville, GA
J. Edward Willis

George Walter 'Bunky'

Henry, Jr.

Alpharetta, GA
by
Mary D. Gray

Madlyn Peace Hightower

by
Donald O. Davis
J. Edward Willis

Nina Grace Singletary King

by
Donald O. Davis

Wallace Lewis

by
J. Edward Willis

Dorothy Peterson Neisen

by
Beulah Exum Hennly

**Margaret Meares Davenport
Nisbet**

by
Donald O. Davis
Patsy T. Giles
J. Edward Willis

Dorothy 'Dot' Dalton Paine

by
J. Edward Willis

Henry A. Parrish

by
J. Edward Willis

Betty Keith Phillips

by
Patsy T. Giles

Dr. Henry Briggs Smith

by
George and Lucille H. Converse
Cincinnati, OH
Patsy T. Giles & Daughters
Lisa Giles Gilchrist
Linda Giles Reibling
Sherry Giles Corker
San Rafael, CA
Mary D. Gray
Tommy and Frances Hatcher
Hailey Hatcher
Bentley Hatcher
Adams Hatcher
John David and Esther P. Lifsey
Atlanta, GA
Lota B. Smith
J. Edward Willis

Julia Bess Smith Scott

by
Donald O. Davis
Hank and Claire S. Lee
John David and Esther P. Lifsey
Atlanta, GA
Lota B. Smith

Marjorie Priest Smith

by
Patsy T. Giles

**Berry Jackson 'Jack' Sullivan
& Suzanne Gardner Sullivan**

Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
by
The Parker Greene Family

Charles Ollie Templeton, Jr.

by
Paul E. 'Bud' Hatcher, Jr.

**Elizabeth 'Betty' Efird
Tillman**

by
Patsy T. Giles
Hank and Claire S. Lee
J. Edward Willis

Dr. Joseph A. Tomberlin

by
C. Lee and Barbara Bradley
The Lamar Cole Family
George and Lucille H. Converse
Cincinnati, OH
Mary Kay Corbitt
Donald O. Davis
Lisa G. Gilchrist
Patsy T. Giles
Beulah Exum Hennly
Judge and Mrs. H. Arthur McLane
Patricia C. Mincey
Dr. Barney J. and Pamela Rickman
Richard W. and Jane Shelton
Drs. Ken and Barbara Stanley
Dr. and Mrs. Loyce W. Turner
J. Edward Willis

Penelope Logan White

by
Dr. Carl M. and Kristy Cates
Jonesboro, AR
Donald O. Davis
Patsy T. Giles
M. Deanna Wagoner

W. Donald 'Don' Wisenbaker

by
Donald O. Davis

Family Gift Memorial

David S. Waller

by
Mrs. Sharon D. Waller

Images on this page:

Below and at *full right top* are two of several congratulatory advertisements from the August 20, 1927 *Valdosta Times* issue announcing the opening of the Mixson- Bird Hospital. Strickland Hardware became Whitehead Hardware in the 1930s and is thus part of the Miller-Whitehead story. *Full right below:* A *Macon Telegraph* article taken from the Dec. 12, 1926 *VDT* that tells of the plans of the upcoming hospital and that the Elks Club house was moved from the site.



Timeline Highlights the museum annex building

1926 - December. Plans for the building announced
1927- April Construction begins
1927-August 22. Mixson Bird Hospital opened
1932- partnership dissolved
1943 - June 1-2. Dr. Bird falls down elevator shaft, can no longer operate hospital . His son Dr. Ashley Bird enters WWII as a physician.
1943- August. Hospital purchased to be the Health Department and later other agencies,
1964-Health Department gets new location and other agencies move by 1966
1968 - building purchased by First Baptist Church.
1971- January. After remodel opens as First Baptist Youth and Activities Building.
2016-April 29 purchased from First Baptist Church by LCHS
2018- January, remodel begins
2019 - work on building will be completed
 *Preparation of Exhibits and Archive Expansion will begin.



VALDOSTA PLANS OFFICE BUILDING

VALDOSTA, Ga., Dec. 12.—Announcement is made that the contract will be let next week for the construction of a modern combination hospital and professional office building on West Central Avenue, which will cost approximately \$100,000.

The building is to be erected for Dr. Frank Bird and Dr. J. F. Mixson, on the site of the old Elks Club, a triangle lot facing on Central Avenue and flanked by Briggs and Stevens Streets.

The entire lower floor will be devoted to rooms for professional men, with every convenience for such business, while the second floor will contain twenty hospital rooms, as well as operating rooms.

The plans for the building are along the most modern to be designed, while the equipment will be in keeping with the building arrangement. The structure will be fire resisting.

The building formerly used as the Elks Club has been moved across Briggs Street, where it will be used as a residence, and with the final clearing of the lot the projectors have asked contractors to submit bids for the work, these to be opened on Wednesday, Dec. 15, and the award to be made at that time, provided the bids are found satisfactory.

Gifts in Honor

Donald O. Davis
 by
 The Family of
 Nina Grace Singletary King

Mary D. Gray
 by
 Joe Glenn and Marie C. Smith

Marilyn H. Kemper
 by
 Joe Glenn and Marie C. Smith

Gift in Recognition of the

**The Lowndes County
 Historical Society & Museum**
*for efforts in Preservation of
 Local & Family History*

by
 Lynn Pippenger
 The Lynn Pippenger Foundation
 of Raymond James, Inc.
 Tampa, FL

2019 Membership Application, Lowndes County Historical Society, P.O. Box 56, Valdosta, GA 31603

Name _____	Membership Category
Address _____	Individual \$25. _____
Phone _____	Family 30. _____
Email _____	Business 25/50. _____
	Contributing 100. _____
	Patron 250. _____

MUSEUM CALENDAR OF EVENTS & DATES

Officers and Executive Committee

President, Patsy Giles; 1st Vice President, T. Davy Shelton; 2nd Vice President, Martha N. Gibson; Secretary, Sally S. Kurrie; Treasurer, John R. Bennett; Past President, Ex Officio, Julie Smith; Anita Shelton

January—April.....Annual Membership Drive Continues
 Thursday February 28.....Membership Business Meeting
 Saturday April 20.....Closed for Easter Weekend
 May 25–27.....Closed for Memorial Day Weekend

The museum is active with Visitors and Researchers

Scheduled Programs and Events will resume upon Annex completion

Lowndes County Historical Society & Museum

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Fax: (229) 247-2840

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Web page:

<http://www.valdostamuseum.com>

YESTERDAY & TODAY

Newsletter of
 Lowndes County Historical Society

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 Executive Director.

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 Textiles and Research.

Harry S. Evans
 Dail Batchelor
 Special Collections and Research

Adam Doughty
 Drew Johnson
 Social Media

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