



**Patricia Trotter Giles**

**Our Memorial Tribute to  
Three Significant  
Supporters & Contributors  
to the Lowndes County  
Historical Society  
and Museum.**

**Patsy Trotter Giles**  
Society President  
2008-2020

April 6, 1943– November 3, 2020

**Anita Hatcher Shelton**  
August 22, 1921 - August 17, 2020

**Eleanor Morgan Howard**  
November 13, 1917—August 30, 2020



**Anita Hatcher Shelton**



**Eleanor Morgan Howard**





Rev. Mac Weaver, Patsy Giles and Dr. Joe Tomberlin



Ingrid Turner, Bobbie Lester and Patsy Giles



Joanne Griner and Patsy Giles on the Courthouse square.

## Patricia Trotter Giles

Patricia (Patsy) Trotter Giles, 77, of Valdosta died on Tuesday, November 3, 2020 at her residence. She was born on April 6, 1943 in Royston, Georgia to the late Richard and Betty Lou Royston Trotter.

Upon graduating high school in Gainesville, GA, she attended Brenau College, married, and moved to Valdosta.

Her involvement with the Valdosta/Lowndes County community and the pride she felt and displayed for the history and culture of Lowndes County was inspiring.

Her contributions to the community included but was not limited to involvement with the Valwood Parents Club, Coastal Plain RSVP Program and Head Start Program, the Crescent Garden Club, Holly Garden Club, a long-time member of the Valdosta Tree Commission that worked with several Arbor Day celebrations and was also instrumental in initiating the Trees for Patterson Project in the 1990's.

Patsy was a 2007 Certified Master Gardener with the Georgia Master Gardeners and served as the first secretary for the Grand Bay Master Gardeners.

She was also actively involved with promoting a deep respect for the historical preservation of this community by serving on the Board of Directors of the Valdosta Heritage Foundation, working in preparation of historic driving tours. long serving President of the Lowndes County Historical Society, spearheading the purchase of the former Dr. Frank Bird Hospital and its rehabilitation for the museum annex, and recently served with the Valdosta/Lowndes Convention and Tourism Authority.

Patsy was appreciated as an event planner by many organizations. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Valdosta.

**Photo at top left:** Weaver, Giles and Tomberlin gather to sign papers for the purchase of the old First Baptist Youth Building, usage 1970-2017. The structure was built as the Mixson-Bird Hospital in 1927.

**Photo center left:** Patsy was always effective at connecting the dots between community activities and organizations. Here she hosted a meeting of the Holly Garden Club in the lower level of the museum.

**Photo bottom left:** Griner and Giles at the tree planting after the dismantling of the courthouse annex. Judge H. Arthur McLane suggested three native varieties for the landscaping and those were used.





## Anita Hatcher Shelton

Anita Hatcher Shelton, 98, of Valdosta, died on Monday, August 17, 2020 at Langdale Hospice House following a lengthy illness.

She was born on August 22, 1921 in Dothan, Alabama to the late Thomas Eifel (T.E.) Hatcher and Hettie Lee Kirkland Hatcher.

Mrs. Hatcher attended the Georgia Women's College upon graduating high school and later married George Lang Shelton, Jr.

She attended Lee Street Baptist Church where she taught the four-year old Sunday school class for many years.

She was a member of the Lowndes County Historical Society and was a long-time member of the Board of Trustees.

Mrs. Shelton was also a long-time board member of Friends of the Library for South Georgia Regional Library and a volunteer for the Turner Art Center. She was a member of First Christian Church.

**Left above:** Anita Shelton and Patsy Giles relax after a History 100 Dinner. They planned many successful and enjoyable events for the society.



**Below:** Partial replica of the President's Award presented to Anita Shelton at the 27th Annual History 100 Dinner, April 26, 2002, Julie Barnes Smith President.

*Anita Hatcher Shelton*

is hereby gratefully presented the

*President's Award*

for

**Exceptional service and contributions**

**Left middle:** Planning meeting for a History 100 Dinner. Back Row: Anita Shelton, Lonie Pendleton, Mary McRee Catharine Redles and Patsy Giles. Front Row: Jennifer Altman, Gloria Sorenson and Bootsie Smotherman. Notice some covered with blankets, It was a cold day with no heat in the museum. Note the "miniature" space heater on the floor beside Anita Hatcher.

**Left:** Anita Shelton gave graciously of her time and energy to the Lowndes County Historical Society. She also donated the museum its first high quality electronic projector and a beautiful sectional lectern in memory of her daughter Becky Allen, plus other items.



Anita Shelton, Eleanor Howard, Bootsie Smotherman, and Julia Bess Scott before the 2006 History 100 Dinner. Eleanor Howard was presented a Keeper of History Award for her Berlin Airlift Collection. Within the collection is the story of her late husband Cap. William R. Howard who was one of thirty-two men to die in the airlift and was buried at Sunset Hill Cemetery.



### The Jingle Bell Christmas Tree

At the time of our 40th Anniversary, the museum wanted to confirm when the Jingle Bell Christmas tree was first prepared. This information was found in a previous newsletter and reprinted at that time.

Louie Peeples White remembered Patsy Giles coming up with the idea when she served on Louie's LCHS Trustee Executive Committee, but neither could pinpoint the initial year. Patsy remembered Louie purchasing window display Christmas bells from C. C. Varnedoe for their historic effect on the tree. In searching through Albert's newsletters we find this mention in the December 1993 issue. "The reason we are writing about Pierpont again (briefly) is because this year at the museum we will have a 'Jingle Bells' tree in honor of the author. The tree is decorated with bells brought in by you and with some bells we already have, all thanks to Patsy Giles."

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
from the Board of Trustees and Museum Staff*



## Eleanor Morgan Howard

Eleanor Morgan Howard was born in Aline, Georgia, to Mrs. and Mrs. W.A. Morgan. The family moved to Valdosta when she was a child. As an adult, she resided on Brookwood Place until 2019 when she moved into Langdale Place. She passed away on Sunday, August 30, 2020.

She was a member of First United Methodist Church of Valdosta where she sang many solos with the choir. She was a longtime member of the Christian Homebuilders Sunday School class. She enjoyed her other interests with the Lowndes County Historical Society, Turner Center for the Arts, Book Review Club, supper club, bridge club, Retired Teachers Association, and Bible studies.

Eleanor was a gifted contralto singer who sang for many weddings, funerals, and with Botie Chitty and the Singing Americans. In high school she won a radio contest to sing on Cuban radio.

Among her varied interests were reading, traveling, interior decorating, gardening, cooking, entertaining, singing, collecting porcelain and elephants. She traveled to India, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Turkey, and most of Europe. She and Riley were frequent guests of honor of the Berlin, Germany, government for memorial celebrations of the lifting of the Berlin blockade in 1949.

Mrs. Howard was an elementary school teacher, teaching in Valdosta City Schools and in Germany. She earned two Master's degrees from Valdosta State College and retired from Sallas Mahone as a reading specialist.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Captain William R. Howard, who died August 24, 1948, while flying a mission for the Berlin Airlift.

She was also preceded in death by her sisters, Jennie Ruth Sherman and Dorothy Evans Mackey, and her nephew, Mercer Sherman.

Eleanor is survived by her son, William Riley Howard (Jenny), step-grandson, James Upchurch (Melanie) of Gig Harbor, WA, and step-granddaughters Brynnlie and Kinsley



**Photo left upper:** Eleanor Howard standing beside the exhibit of artifacts on Berlin Air Lift which she donated. Her husband died in 1948 flying a mission in the air lift. This exhibit is an example of how local history can tell of national and international events. Quizzes about the exhibit and have led to donations of pieces of the Berlin Wall and a small collection of East German border police medals.

**Photo left below:** This photo, now in the museum archives, shows Eleanor Morgan (Howard) performing on WWL New Orleans radio. When in college here she won a contest to sing on Cuban radio.

## Tributes for Patsy Giles

Emily Shaw Anderson

May the comfort of God's love, mercy and grace bring peace to your minds, serenity to your hearts and renewal to your spirits. Patsy fought the good fight, finished the race with a life well-lived and left a legacy that all who knew and loved her will remember.

Cheryl Oliver

Patsy was a vital presence in our community with her organizational skills, obvious intelligence and unique humor. She made people feel special and valued, and I admired and respected her deeply. She will be missed profoundly!

Patti Steward Strickland

Patsy was a friendly, welcoming person and an accomplished person in so many ways. I knew her through the Garden Club and saw her vast knowledge manifested in the many ideas of beautiful flower arranging and lovely decorating that she contributed to so many of the events held at the Garden Center. She even helped create the gorgeous flower designs for my daughter's wedding. I knew that the Historical Society was dear to her heart, also. Many times she contributed information from the Historical Society at the Garden Center Board Meetings. She was the glue that tied the two organizations together. I consider Patsy part of the "Brain Trust of Valdosta," the people who know and care about all the old, valuable, historic things about Valdosta. We lost a wonderful person and a wealth of knowledge. I will miss her.

Dr Suzannah Patterson

Patsy, my dear friend, was a very special person who overflowed with creative ideas. Her work in the founding of the Azalea Festival lives on.

Renate Milner

Patsy was a truly unique person in every way. I have known her for decades and had the most pleasant last encounter with her at the Museum, a place and people she truly loved. I miss her. There are not many people in the world like her, and now we have lost another one.

Beverly Gooze Edwards

I am so very sorry about Patsy. Always kind and nice to talk with. She was smart and always willing to share talents.

Earle S. McKey, III

After writing of Patsy's artistry with flowers, this note ended with the following:

"Alfred Lord Tennyson wrote the following— 'Little flower – but that I could understand what you are, root and all, all-all, I should know what God and man is.'

Patsy—knew!"

## 2020 New & Renewal Memberships

*Con't. from previous 2020 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**

\*\*\* designates Life Member

\*\* designates Patron Member

\*designates Contributing Member

**G. Dan Arnold**

Jacksonville, FL

**Dr. Brook and Katie Bearden**

**Bobbie Snow Boal**

Atlanta, GA

**Roxanne Williams Brown**

**James and Vickie Byrd**

**Shirlee Sainz Carroll**

**Roberta H. George**

**Bill and Linda L. Grondahl**

**Jerry and Kay Jennett \*\*\***

**Hank and Claire S. Lee**

**Laura Leonard**

**Pat Puckett Miller**

**Rivers Farm House**

Lakeland, GA

**Ellis Scooter Singletary**

Lawrenceville, GA

**Lisa Hoyle Slamkowski \***

**Mark and Pam Stalvey**

**Nell J. Walden**

Byron, GA

## MEMORIALS

(beginning November)

**Patricia Trotter Giles**

by

**Dean Nichols Brooks**

**Sally Shingler Kurrie**

(Continued next newsletter)

**2021 Annual Membership  
Letters will be mailed  
in late December**



# MEMORIALS

**Martha Bell Blackburn**

by  
Dr. and Mrs. Owen K. Youles

**Jane McHugh Bonner**

by  
Donald O. Davis

**Lena Dykes Bosch**

by  
Dr. and Mrs. Owen K. Youles

**Hilda Scruggs Brown**

by  
Donald O. Davis  
Ed and Rita Hightower

**Nathan Boykin Brown, Jr.**

by  
Donald O. Davis  
Sally Shingler Kurrie

**William Gus Elliott**

by  
Donald O. Davis  
Patsy T. Giles  
Mary D. Gray  
Matilda W. Stubbs

**Ronald P. Hogan**

by  
Sally Shingler Kurrie

**John Robert Horton, Sr.**

Quitman, GA  
by  
The Valdosta Heritage Foundation

**Eleanor Morgan Howard**

by  
Betty M. Batts  
Gary and Betty Gene Beck Birdwell  
Franklin, TN  
Ronnie and Bebo Blanton  
Dean Nichols Brooks  
Michael and Sally Sue Christopher  
Lamar and Florence Cole  
Sandra Bennett Connell  
Stockton, GA  
Donald O. Davis  
Marvin and Lyn L. Dickey  
Patsy T. Giles  
Mary D. Gray  
Lucy R. Greene, Ph.D  
Jay Harrell  
Simmons and Harrell, P.C.

**Lilla Kate Hart**

Roy and Kathi W. Hunnewell  
Sally Shingler Kurrie  
Richard B. and Julie Liles  
Santa Rosa Beach, FL  
Judge and Mrs. H. Arthur McLane  
Allen and Debbie H. Nagy  
Al and Mary Jane Beck Rakel  
Tucker, GA  
Eve H. Renfroe  
T. Davy and Susan Shelton  
Wesley and Julie S. Street  
George and Polly Talley  
Alfred C. Willis, Ph.D  
J. Edward Willis  
Dr. and Mrs. Bolan P. Woodward

**Julianna R. Howard**

by  
The Medical Staff of  
South Georgia Medical Center

**Alton M. "Buddy" Johnson, Jr.**

by  
Dr. and Mrs. Owen K. Youles

**Gretchen Burnette McCoy**

by  
Donald O. Davis  
Mary D. Gray  
Hank and Claire S. Lee  
Sally Shingler Kurrie  
Jimmy and Mary Young Manning  
Allen and Debbie H. Nagy  
J. Edward Willis

**Larry Mixson Sheffield**

by  
L. Steve Wansley

**Anita Hatcher Shelton**

by  
Phil and Cathy Alday  
Arthur and Janice W. Baker  
John and Penelope Batts  
Blairsville, GA  
Ronnie and Bebo Blanton  
Linda D. Brannen  
Perry, GA  
Dean Nichols Brooks  
Roy and Donna Cannon  
Atlanta, GA  
Joe and Ellen Clary  
Donald O. Davis  
Marvin and Lyn L. Dickey  
David V. Drumheller

**Patsy T. Giles**

Mary D. Gray  
Dr. Charles and Nancy Hobby  
Roy and Kathi W. Hunnewell  
Sally Shingler Kurrie  
Lamb P. Lastinger  
Richard B. and Julie Liles  
Santa Rosa Beach, FL  
Jimmy and Mary Young Manning  
John and Ginna McTier  
Allen and Debbie H. Nagy  
Dr. David and Leslie Parker  
William C. and Peggy Parramore  
Gwyn Parrish  
Eve H. Renfroe  
Richard and Jane Shelton  
T. Davy and Susan Shelton  
Brenda Thrasher and Daughters  
Jamie Rainwater Eager &  
Robyn Rainwater West  
The Loyce & Annette Turner  
Foundation, Inc.  
L. Steve Wansley  
J. Edward Willis  
Dr. and Mrs. Owen K. Youles

**Susan Elizabeth Shingler**

by  
Dean Nichols Brooks  
Donald O. Davis  
Patsy T. Giles  
Mary D. Gray  
Sally Shingler Kurrie  
J. Edward Willis

**Julia Frances Rouse Taylor**

by  
Dr. and Mrs. Owen K. Youles

**Eileen Tranthum**

by  
Matilda W. Stubbs

**Alfred C. "Dick" Walden, III**

by  
Nell J. Walden  
Byron, GA

**Waunee Wheeler Walker**

by  
J. Edward Willis  
Dr. and Mrs. Owen K. Youles

**THIS PAGE MEMORIALS  
RECEIVED BY OCTOBER 31**

## MUSEUM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Officers and Executive Committee

President, Patsy Giles; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Sally S. Kurrie; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Mary Young Manning; Secretary, Sandra Bennett; Treasurer, Ed Hightower; Ex Officio, Julie Smith

The museum remained Closed to the Public  
at press time for this newsletter.

Our core staff of three continues flexible “distancing” work schedules.

We will follow the advisement of officials and our

Board of Trustees for reopening to the public.

Fully Closing for Thanksgiving on Tuesday

Annual End of Year Closing: December 23 thru January 4, 2021

### Lowndes County Historical Society & Museum

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Web page:

<http://www.valdostamuseum.com>

## YESTERDAY & TODAY

Newsletter of

Lowndes County Historical Society

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Donald O. Davis

Museum Staff

Donald O. Davis

Executive Director.

Amy Brown

Textiles, Curator, and Research.

Harry S. Evans

Special Collections and Research

Adam Doughty

Drew Johnson

Social Media

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YESTERDAY & TODAY

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