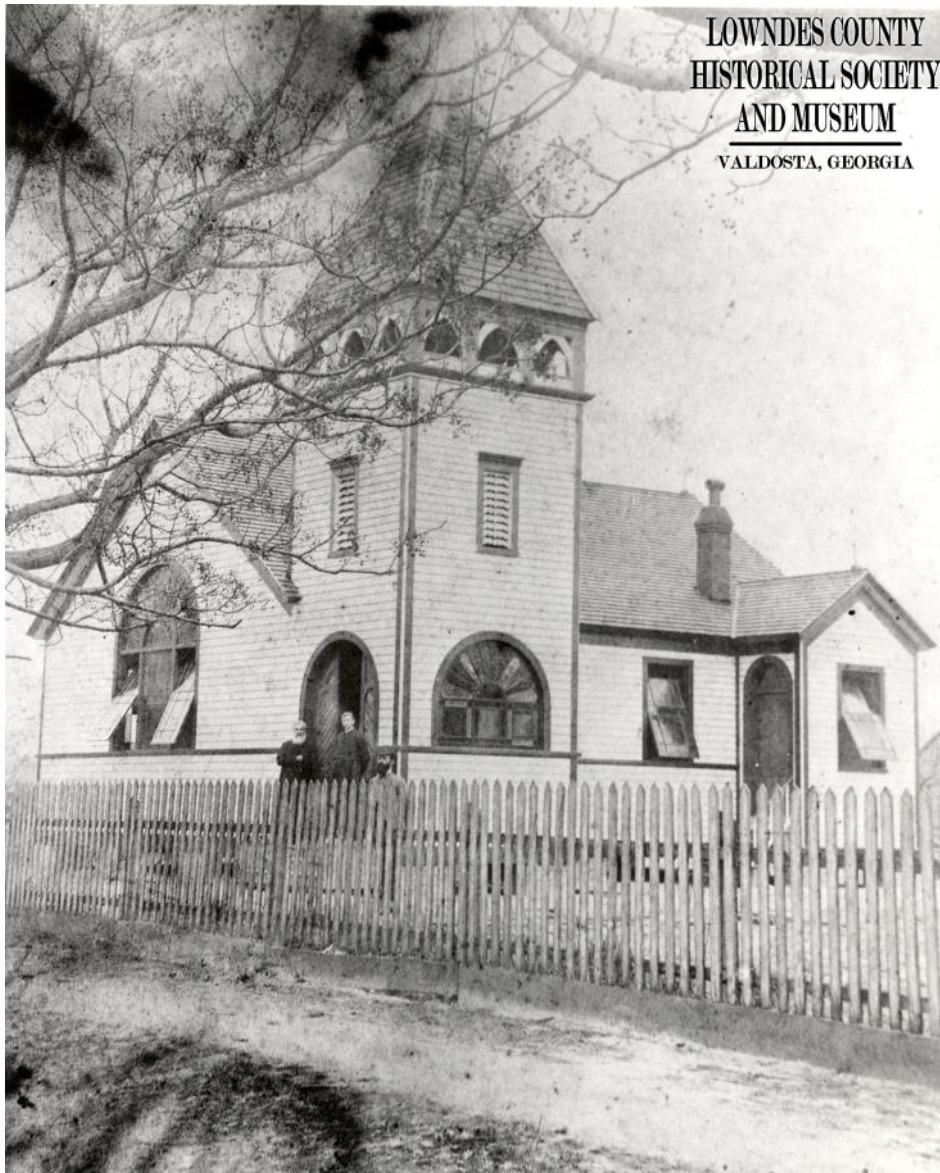




150 Years: Episcopalians first purchased a lot in Valdosta in 1871

The article beginning at right is authored by Dr. Michael M. Black, member of Christ Episcopal Church



LOWNDES COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
AND MUSEUM
VALDOSTA, GEORGIA

Above: This photo from the museum archives is dated circa 1886 and is the earliest image we have of the Episcopal Church on Central Avenue. Images after circa 1910 show the steeple much lower in height. The Christian Science Society acquired the structure in 1952. The site has a historical marker that was placed in 1993 by the Valdosta Town Committee of the National Society Colonial Dames.

For over 20 years, Troupville, the county seat for Lowndes County, was a thriving community. In 1858, it was published that a new railroad line was to traverse Lowndes County, and it would not go through Troupville but instead four miles away through the community of Valdosta. Residents of Troupville began proactively relocating their homes and businesses to Valdosta in anticipation of the new rail station. The first train came through Valdosta in July 1860 igniting new commercial opportunities. The post office moved from Troupville to Valdosta in November 1860. The General Assembly designated Valdosta as the new county seat and incorporated it on December 7, 1860 (*Acts of the General Assembly of the State of Georgia, passed in Milledgeville, at an annual session in November and December 1860, 1861, p. 107*).

Episcopalians were present in Valdosta from its beginning. Early services were held by traveling clergy from Georgia, Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi. The Rev. Samuel Benedict (1824-1891), rector of St. John's, Savannah, from 1867-1877, and Archdeacon of South Georgia held services in private homes and in the courthouse on an irregular basis. The Diocese of Georgia, which met in Convention in 1871, reported that "Episcopalians [in Valdosta] had secured a lot and were at work on the church-building program," with an additional \$100.00 raised for missions (H. T. Malone, *The Episcopal Church in Georgia 1733-1957*, 1960).

123 North Ashley Street

With research assistance from Wiregrass Title Services, we ascertained a lot was purchased July 8, 1871. Specifically, H. P. Morris to the Right Reverend John W. Beckwith D. D. Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Georgia and his successors in office, for \$100, a lot being in the Town of Valdosta, Lot 8 in Block 11, east side of Ashley Street containing 40 feet front and 90 feet deep (Lowndes County, GA Deed Book C, p. 615-16, Parcel 0118C 223). This property was located at 123 N. Ashley Street. (*cont. page 2*)

Although a church was not constructed on this lot, the purchase of the property signifies the Diocese of Georgia's 1871 presence in Valdosta. The Diocese retained this property for 38 years, selling it December 29, 1909 to J. M. Smith for \$4,500 (Lowndes County, GA Deed Book HH, p. 58). The property was used for other purposes. In reviewing the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps online, the lot on N. Ashley Street held the following businesses: vacant lot (1885, 1889, 1895), snack house (1900), restaurant (1905), furniture store (1911, 1912), and music store (1922). A bronze plaque affixed to the exterior of the structure refers to it as the Register Bros. Building, circa 1910. In 2021, Cottonwood Market & Boutique occupied the property.

305 East Central Avenue

Raising funds for a building program proved difficult, plus the church had no permanent vicar, so Episcopalians continued to worship in private homes and at the courthouse for another 14 years. It was not until the Rev. H. B. Stuart Martin, who also had two other charges in South Georgia, became the first Vicar of the Valdosta Protestant Episcopal Church that a building program resumed. Using money saved by two families (Parr and Wilson), a lot three times larger than the Ashley Street property was purchased from Mary "Polly" (Futch) Griffin (1831-1892), widow of early Lowndes County settler Joshua Griffin (1822-1877), on September 10, 1885. Specifically, Mary Griffin to John W. Beckwith Bishop of the Diocese of Georgia and his successors in office in trust for the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Georgia, for \$225, a lot being in the Town of Valdosta, on Central Avenue, 140 feet east of its junction with Lee Street, Lot 12 (Lowndes County, GA Deed Book H, p. 480, Parcel 0118C 239). This property was 305 E. Central Avenue. In 2021, Pentecostal House of Prayer, Inc. owned the property.

The cornerstone at 305 Central was laid on November 7, 1885, and the first service was held in February 1886. In 1943, the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Georgia purchased an adjoining lot from Mrs. Emma (Griffin) Hardman, a Valdosta native and widow of former Gov. Lamartine G. Hardman, for \$500 (Lowndes County, GA Deed Book 5K, p. 69). Christ Church Parish resided at this location for 60 years, and the Diocese sold the Central Avenue property on November 15, 1947 to L. P. Shaw for \$10,000 (Lowndes County, GA Deed Book 6J, p. 193-94). *Continued page 4.*

Editor's Note: Michael Black's writings on specialized segments of local history are much appreciated by the historical museum.

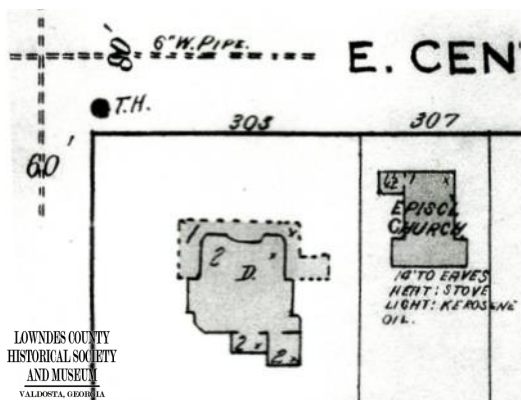
Dr. Michael M. Black recently shared his first article of a series he plans to write in recognition of 150 years of the Episcopal Church in Valdosta. This first article covers the two sanctuary locations, the 1885 and 1949 structures, and also the purchase of property in 1871. Michael agreed that we could use his article in our newsletter. It is an informative and concisely written narrative. I told him that the LCHS newsletter would include historical information on the locations of the structures and the immediate areas around them, this in addition to the Episcopal Church history.

Black has well recorded local history in the past. During the Centennial Years at Valdosta State (2006 -2013) he wrote a significant 270 page book **"The Mosaic of People and Events in the History of Valdosta State University's Business Operations 1906-2006."** It is a masterful and thorough work covering business, auxiliary and construction activities of the college. We have used it for reference many times at the museum and told other researchers about it for them to reference.

Black also wrote a biography of the third president of the college Dr. Frank R. Reade which is titled, **"Sincerely, Frank: Frank R. Reade: Professor, President, and Camp Director."** With this book Black included a CD recording of Eleanor Roosevelt's March 27, 1941 speech at the school, then Georgia State Womans College, in dedication of the new library.

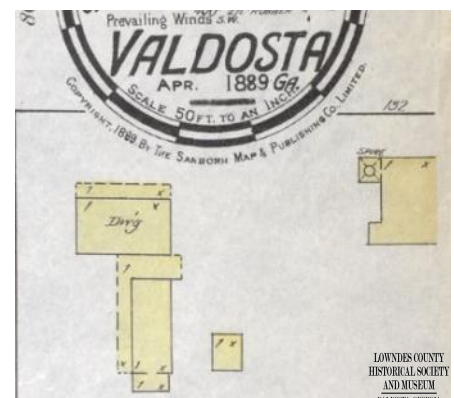


The 1885 Panoramic drawing of Valdosta shows the Griffin Troupville house with large rear additions in the southeast corner of Central and Lee. The church by the "Numeral 2" was Valdosta Baptist that was farther down the street. The Episcopal Church would soon be constructed.



Left and Right: Images from Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Valdosta, Georgia

Right: The 1889 Sanborn image covered just enough of E. Central Avenue to show a portion of the Episcopal Church next to the Griffin Troupville house with rear additions. **Left:** The 1900 Sanborn image shows the footprint of the new Griffin Victorian home and the Episcopal Church.



**More stories for Downtown: The area of the upcoming Lee Street
Downtown Park and Amphitheater once contained the
Joshua Griffin home, *below*, moved to Valdosta from Troupville in 1860**



Just Arrived from 1935: The *above* post card came to the museum in a DAR scrapbook in early 2021, an image we thought we would never see. The card information reads, “Home of Mr. Joshua Griffin built in Old Troupville in 1852, moved to Valdosta in 1860. In 1899, his son, J. N. Griffin removed this same house to his farm [about three miles from Valdosta] on the Bemiss Road where it now stands and is still in a splendid state of preservation.” Historic Post Card Committee of The General James Jackson Chapter D.A.R. November 20th 1935. **Below:** J.N. Griffin then built the Victorian home below on the same lots. The Griffins had purchased property near the Crescent on Patterson Street but decided to remain on Central Avenue. Griffin stated that he had been born in the Troupville house and chose that it be preserved. A story in the April 25, 1899 VDT, “AN OLD LANDMARK GONE”



Below: Emma Wiley Griffin daughter of J.N. and Josephine Staten Griffin, became the First Lady of Georgia, 1927-1931. as wife of Gov. Lamartine Hardman, a medical doctor. They married in 1907 and lived in Commerce, GA.



The current Christ Episcopal Patterson parking lot was once a location for competitive trap shooting



LOWNDES COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
AND MUSEUM
VALDOSTA, GEORGIA

(article continued from page 2)

1521 North Patterson Street

Recognizing the need to expand, on January 1, 1946, the vestry of Christ Church purchased a lot measuring 132 feet by 205 feet on College Street from the Holmes estate for \$6,000. This was 1521 N. Patterson Street, the property that Christ Episcopal Church occupies today. Frank R. Reade (1895-1957), President of Georgia State Womans College from 1934-1948, was a lifelong Episcopalian from Abington, Virginia. He allowed the Episcopal Church to use the college's Ashley Hall Auditorium on Sunday mornings while the new church building was being constructed across the street (Letter from Frank R. Reade to Marion Smith, 09/14/1946). Ground was broken on May 3, 1948 with the dedication and first communion held on February 20, 1949. (end of article)

Above: Trap Shooting on North Patterson.

The late Albert Pendleton dated this photo circa 1904 and stated the location later became the residence of the N. N. Langdale family at 1517 and 1519 N. Patterson Street. At the time of his writing he stated that it was the current location of the Episcopal Church's Patterson Street parking lot. The N. N. (Noah Noel) Langdale family show occupying the 1517 address in the 1921 City Directory. Below mentioned are the two N.N. Langdale children that lived to have adult lives, Marguerite Langdale Pizer and Dr. Noah Langdale.

Trap shooting seems to have been a social and competitive pastime in early Lowndes. We have six matching clay pigeons among our artifacts, perhaps from 1905. They were donated in 1979 by Thelma Dampier Godwin (Jr. High science teacher) along with a photo of Chief of Police Calvin Dampier known from his involvement in the rampage of Gypsy the elephant.



LOWNDES COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
AND MUSEUM
VALDOSTA, GEORGIA

At left: Marguerite Langdale (Pizer) from the 1927 *The Dosta*, VHS year-book where she is listed as Vice President of her Senior Class. She graduated from GSWC (VSU) where now is the Marguerite Langdale Pizer Chair of International Relations. **At right** is younger brother Dr. Noah Langdale, VHS 1937 and University of Alabama. He was a football player who recited Shakespeare. Early in Valdosta he was an attorney and at VSC. He was known for his visionary accomplishments as President of Georgia State University for 31 years. The photo is from a feature article in the *Atlanta J/C Sunday Magazine*, Oct. 11, 1970, which we have in the museum archives.



LOWNDES COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
AND MUSEUM
VALDOSTA, GEORGIA



At Left: As mentioned previously in this newsletter, Dr. Michael M. Black wrote a book on Dr. Frank R. Reade who was president of Georgia State Womans College. 1935-1948. Black reports that Reade was a member of Christ Episcopal and allowed space in Ashley Hall to be used for services during the construction of the present sanctuary. **Below** are Patsy Casteen and a friend at the museum. When Georgia Tourism developed the statewide Camellia Trail three Valdosta locations were included. Two of the signs were shipped to the museum for distribution. Visiting the museum for other purposes, they noticed and admired the Camellia Trail signs. We took their photo with the sign "Sara Oliver Memorial Camellia Garden, Christ Episcopal Church."



Food Trucks were preceded by DeSotos, Plymouths and Trailways Buses

The recent Music and Food Truck events have been so well attended that they gave impetus to the City of Valdosta developing the Lee Street Downtown Park and Amphitheater. The park is to be equipped with electrical service so the trucks will not need to use loud generators. After the J. N. Griffin property was sold and the house deconstructed the area was occupied in the late 1940s by Puett Motor Company, *photo below*. In the 1950s a photograph and City Directories show these buildings occupied by Acme Equipment and then Acme Transfer and Storage including the Trailways Bus Terminal. Plans for the park indicate a ground level fountain that will be located in this area. Note in the photo, above the most left "Puett Motor Company" lettering, the church steeple is visible in the background. A video of the plans for the park can be found on the City of Valdosta website.





MEMORIALS



H.C. 'Bud' Abbott

Statesboro, GA

by

Dr. F. D. Toth

Morris 'Buddy' Bass

by

Sally Shingler Kurrie

William H. 'Bill' Bennett, Jr.

by

The 1960, '61 & '62 VHS Football Teams

via Jimmy Robinson

Thomaston, GA

Dr. and Mrs. William W. Oliver

Macon, GA

Martha Bell Blackburn

by

Alfred Willis, PhD.

Mae Veal Blair

by

Joe and Charlotte Ford

J. Edward Willis

Alfred Willis, PhD.

Fred Earl Blanton, Jr.

by

J. Edward Willis

James William 'Jim' Bowen

by

J. Edward Willis

Nathan Baskin Brown, Jr.

by

Dan and Carolyn E. Coleman

Charles C. 'Charlie' Clark

by

J. Edward Willis

Dr. Frank Thomas Corker

by

Donald O. Davis

Mary D. Gray

Marilyn H. Kemper

Sally Shingler Kurrie

Dr. Owen and Joanne Youles

David Dennis

by

Donald O. Davis

J. Edward Willis

William Gus Elliott

by

Dan and Carolyn E. Coleman

Jane L. Ferrell

by

Jon S. and Linda Burch

Louie Carlton Flythe, Sr.

by

Hank and Claire S. Lee

Alice Jo Lane Giddens

by

Donald O. Davis

Marvin and Lyn Dickey

Jay and Connie Mullis

Pelham, AL

J. Edward Willis

Ronald P. Hogan

by

Dan and Carolyn E. Coleman

Eleanor Morgan Howard

by

Dan and Carolyn E. Coleman

Malcolm H. and Marion Liles

Nashville, TN

Lynn E. Thomas

Dr. and Mrs. Fred A. Ware, Jr.

Quitman, Ga

Jim and Susan Eye Wheeler

Odessa Alexander Laury

by

Donald O. Davis

Jack and Cheryl Oliver

Rt. Rev. Henry I. Louttit, Jr.

Tallahassee, FL

by

Mary D. Gray

Martha Wiseman McKey

by

Ida Little

Hawthorne, FL

Alton M. 'Buddy' Johnson, Jr.

by

Dan and Carolyn E. Coleman

Charles Mixson Miller

Birmingham, AL

by

John and Sandra Anderson

Yolanda Nicole Davis-Mitchell

by

Anthony and Vivian Miller-Cody

Teresa Rodgers Minchew

by

Sally Shingler Kurrie

Marsha Harris Rudolph

by

Mary D. Gray

Diane Higginbotham Schroer

by

Wade H. and Geri Coleman

Highlands, NC

Mary D. Gray

Anita Hatcher Shelton

by

John and Sandra Anderson

Jon S. and Linda Burch

Dan and Carolyn E. Coleman

Paul B. Hatcher, Jr.

J. W. and Stuart Lynn Simpson

Lynn E. Thomas

Dr. and Mrs. Fred A. Ware, Jr.

Quitman, Ga

Jim and Susan Eye Wheeler

Susan Elizabeth Shingler

by

John and Sandra Anderson

Buddy and Sharon Coleman

Dan and Carolyn E. Coleman

Anne Rankin Singletary

by

Mary D. Gray

Marilyn H. Kemper

Kathryn Burgsteiner Stevens

Fernandina Beach, FL

by

Beulah Exum Hennly

United Daughters of the Confederacy

Chapter 2582, Valdosta, GA

J. Edward Willis

John Gregory Wolinski

by

Col. Vance & Dr. Anita B. Renfroe

Fernandina Beach, FL

Sally Shingler Kurrie

MEMORIALS

Patsy Trotter Giles

by

Phil H. and Cathy Alday
 Clint and Jeanna Beeland
 Dean Nichols Brooks
 Lamar and Florence Cole
 Dan and Carolyn E. Coleman
 Sandra Bennett Connell
 Stockton, GA
 Charles and Carolyn Cox
 Dr. Frank and Gloria B. Corker
 Edward and Sara L. Crow
 Donald O. Davis
 J. Adam Doughty
 Athens, GA
 Lilla Kate Hart
 Beulah Exum Hennly
 James A. Horton
 Quitman, GA

Andrew 'Drew' Wallace Johnson
 Atlanta, GA

Sally Shingler Kurrie
 Bobbie W. Lester
 Judge H. Arthur and Jane McLane
 Renate K. Milner
 Cecil, GA
 Floyd B. Moon
 Charles and Cathy Perry
 Lynn Shelton
 Gwen B. Simmons
 Lynn E. Thomas
 Dr. F. D. Toth
 Mark E. and Kimberly Toth
 Macon, GA
 Dr. and Mrs. Fred A. Ware, Jr.
 Quitman, GA
 Dr. Mary Helen Watson
 Hugh and Jerry West
 Jim and Susan Eye Wheeler

Family Gift Memorials

Wm. Thomas 'Tommy' Barr

by

Melanie D. Ford

Lloyd Barton Greer, Sr.

Lloyd Barton Greer, Jr.

Dr. Mack V. Greer

by

Lee V. Greer
 Fair Oaks Ranch, TX

Molly Huckaby Hardy

by

Janet B. Scott

Mary Catherine Meacham

by

Beverly M. Foster

Brannen Paulette Sineath

by

John T. Sineath

Frances Paine Tapp & Mr. & Mrs. Travers W. Paine, Sr.

by

Helen Preston Tapp
 Atlanta, GA

David S. Waller, Sr.

by

Sharon D. Waller

Tally Marcus Wisnaker III

by

Mark and Carol Wisnaker

Claire Wiggins Wilson

Leawood, KS

by

Butch and Susan Wiggins

Edwin Burch

by

Joe Burch
 Macclenny, FL

Gifts in Honor

Recognizing the 76th Wedding Anniversary of James R. & Rachel Salter Hastings

February 4, 2021

by

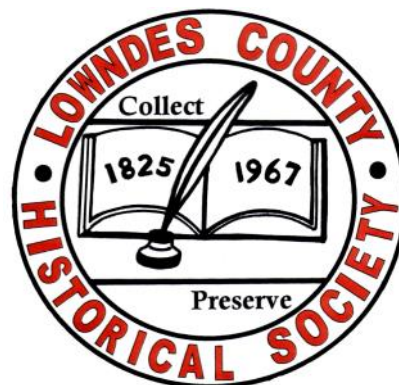
Van and Dot Hastings
 Mark and Mary Hastings Pacey
 and their Families

(both with 96th Birthdays in 2021)

In Honor of James Edward Alexander Bluffton, SC

by

Jack and Cheryl Oliver



Memorials and Gifts
 recorded in this newsletter
 are those received by
 February 15

2021 New and Renewing
 Memberships will be listed in
 the upcoming newsletter.

2021 Membership Application, Lowndes County Historical Society, P.O. Box 56, Valdosta, GA 31603

Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

Membership Category

Individual \$25. ____
 Family 30. ____
 Business 25/50. ____
 Contributing 100. ____
 Patron 250. ____

MUSEUM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Officers and Executive Committee

Interim President and 1st Vice President, Sally S. Kurrie; 2nd Vice President, Mary Young Manning; Secretary; Treasurer, Ed Hightower; Ronald Irwin, John Reid Bennett; Past President, In Memory, Patsy T. Giles

January thru April.....Annual Membership Campaign

The museum staff continues to work daily. Researchers are served and Acquisitions continue to be accepted and processed.

The County is beginning repair work on the Carnegie Building.

Newsletters beginning in 2011 are also online with many having color images.

Lowndes County Historical Society & Museum

305 West Central Avenue
P.O. Box 56 Valdosta, GA 31603
(229) 247-4780

Fax: (229) 247-2840

E-mail: research.lchs@gmail.com & ddavis.lchs@gmail.com

Web page:

<http://www.valdostamuseum.com>

YESTERDAY & TODAY

Newsletter of

Lowndes County Historical Society

Newsletter Editor

Donald O. Davis

Museum Staff

Donald O. Davis

Executive Director.

Amy Brown

Textiles and Research.

Harry S. Evans

Special Collections and Research

Renate K. Milner

Research Volunteer

Adam Doughty and Drew Johnson

Social Media

YESTERDAY & TODAY

is a trademark of the
Lowndes County Historical Society.

Return Service Requested

Lowndes County Historical Society

P.O. Box 56

Valdosta, Georgia 31603-0056

Non-Profit
U S POSTAGE
PAID
Valdosta GA
PERMIT 13