



Thanksgiving Day 1895 First Inter-City Football Game in South Georgia The Thomasvilles versus Valdosta

WON WITH EASE.

The Thomasville's Defeat the Valdosta 28 to 0.

The first game of foot ball ever played in Thomasville came off Thursday and Thomasville won by the score of 28 to 0.

The Valdosta boys got in at 1.58 and went at once to the Brighton Hotel, where they changed clothes, then went to the ball grounds. The Valdosta team were short of two men, several of their best players being unable to come up. Dekle and W. Beverly, of the Thomasville's, played with them to make out the eleven.

The teams lined up as follows:

VALDOSTA.	POSITION.	THOMASVILLE.
Holder, W.	L. E.	Smith, S.
Jones,	L. T.	Watt
Scruggs,	L. G.	Cooper,
Pardee,	C.	Parker, H.
Roberts,	R. G.	Lester,
Parrish,	R. T.	Carroll,
Dinkins,	R. E.	Smith, H.
Dekle,	L. H. B.	Pittman, J.
Thomas, R.	R. H. B.	Clark,
Beverly, W.	Q. B. (Capt.)	Ba bee,
Davis, (Capt.)	F. B.	Pittman, C.

The Valdosta boys were very light in weight and needed practice, but they put up a serry game. The Thomasville's have had some fair practice and were well equipped.

First Football Game

We became aware of this game in 2020 when assisting Matt Yandle of Thomasville with some information for his website Tville Bulldogs. We were going to headline this article last fall especially with the initial interruptions Covid-19 presented our lives and the possibility of no football. However, when three long-time significant supporters of the museum and society passed away in 2020 the Fall newsletter issue became a deserved memorial tribute to Anita Hatcher Shelton, Eleanor Morgan Howard and Patsy T. Giles.

When Matt Yandle informed us of this game we were able to find this article searching on the Georgia Historical Newspapers website, the Georgia Archives now a part of the University System of Georgia.

We are thwarted when searching for *Valdosta Time* articles. When the microfilm in the Georgia archives was digitized and thus became searchable, someone pulled only the separately catalogued biweekly *Valdosta Times*, 1905-1912, for the project. The standard issues of the *Valdosta Times* from 1867 on were evidently overlooked and thus are not available for electronic searching. The *VDT* began daily issues in 1905 when covering the Carter-Rawlings trial.

At left: The beginning portion of the article covering the football game from the *Daily Times Enterprise*, Thomasville. For the football enthusiast we continue the entire article on pages two and three. The *VDT* November 1895 issues did not survive to be microfilmed, much less digitized, so the Thomasville version of the game is evidently our only coverage of the event.

The game opened with Thomasville facing the west goal. Barbee kicked off and Dekle caught and returned the ball. After good runs by Watt, Pittman, J. Clark and Pittman, C., Pittman J. was pushed across the line for the first touch-down. Barbee held the ball for Pittman C., who kicked a pretty goal. Score, Thomasville 6, Valdosta 0. Time 3 minutes.

Valdosta kicked off this time. Clark caught, passed to C. Pittman, who made a good run, blocked by Pittman, J., Clark and Barbee. Several more runs by the back and line and then Clark was given the ball for a run around the end, with Pittman J., Pittman C. and Barbee as interference, he scored the second touch-down. Pittman again kicked goal in fine style. Score, Thomasville 12, Valdosta 0. Time 8 minutes.

Valdosta kicked, Pittman J. caught, passed to Pittman C., who made a pretty run. Several more runs by the backs good center backing by Parker, Cooper and Lester, and C. Pittman was pushed over the goal line for the third touch-down. Pittman C. kicked goal. Score, Thomasville 18, Valdosta 0. Time 23 minutes.

The kick off by Valdosta had just been made when time was called for the first half.

Built Big Fires to Practice Every Night

Below is a short mention on game preparation from the November 24, 1895 *Daily Times Enterprise*.

Note: There was scant electricity in 1895 and transportation was by rail or horse drawn. These were community teams and the players had jobs so practices were held in the evening. Daylight Saving Time was decades away.

"The Thomasville foot ball team have provided themselves with uniforms, masks, protectors, etc., and are hard down at work practicing for the coming game with Valdosta on Thanksgiving Day. The boys build big fires on the grounds and practice every night, Some of them have already lost something less than a yard of skin, but a foot ball player cares nothing about a little thing like that."

The second half was almost a repetition of the first, Valdosta only securing the ball twice. Barbee scored a touch-down by a criss-cross tandem play with Pittman C. Pittman C. kicked goal. Score, Thomasville 24, Valdosta 0.

Pittman C. was pushed through the center for the next touch-down, but failed to kick goal. Score, Thomasville 28, Valdosta 0. Time was called with the ball within 5 yards of Valdosta's goal.

The 1895 Valdosta Players, Are any your Family?

W. Holder, Left End
Jones, Left Tackle
Scruggs, Left Guard
Pardee, Center
Roberts, Right Guard
Parrish, Right Tackle
Dinkins, Right End
R. Thomas, Right Half Back
Davis, (Capt.) Full Back

From family lore, scrapbooks or photos, do any readers of this newsletter know if one of the 1895 Valdosta players is a family member, or perhaps you suspect an ancestor that fits this time and activity? If you have information please contact the museum. We best record data when we receive it in written form. Email the museum at research.lchs@gmail.com, or you may call us at 229-247-4780.

'The Thomasville team played good ball, but could have played better if it were needed'

The tackling of Dekle and Beverly who played with Valdosta was splendid. They both played like veterans, and too much praise cannot be given them. As for the rest of the visitors they played hard and tried to win, but they were too light and needed practice. The Thomasville team played good ball, but could have played better if it were needed. The Smith brothers at the ends played unusually well, in fact every man did his part. Most of the work was on the backs, who make several long runs. The longest being made by Pittman J., who was blocked by Clark, Pittman C. and Barbee.

No one was hurt in the game. The game was very free from kicks (of both sides) and the Valdosta boys went home pleased with their treatment. They are a gentlemanly lot of young men, and we hope to see them up this way again.

After the game Mr. L. Schmidt treated the boys to a delightful surprise in the shape of a splendid supper of turkey, oysters and other dainty dishes.

The first game was a success, but when the people understand the game, better and larger crowds will attend the games.

Articles About "The first game of foot ball that has ever been played in Thomasville"

Above: The two columns above complete the game coverage article which has portions on pages 1, 2 and 3 of this newsletter. The entire article was run twice, first in the *Daily Times Enterprise*, November 30, soon after the game, and in the weekly paper Dec. 7, 1895.

At right: This article was printed in the *Daily Times-Enterprise* issue on Thanksgiving morning, November 28, 1895, the day of the game. The Thomasvilles are reported as prepared and confident of victory over Valdosta.

"FOOT BALL, How is it Played?"

An extensive article on the rules of the game was printed in the *Daily Times Enterprise* November 27, 1895, the day before the game, "so that everyone will understand it." A few excerpts follow *below*.

"The game is commenced by the tossing of a coin to see which has the ball and which the choice of direction."

"In case of any kick, the side making the kick cannot touch the ball until it has been touched by an opponent."

"No man except the one who has the ball can be held."

Many more interesting rules are in the article.

Note: If you look for these articles online, be sure to search "Foot Ball" or "foot ball", not "football."

Daily Times-Enterprise

THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA, NOVEMBER 28, 1895.

Foot Ball This Afternoon.

The first game of foot ball that has ever been played in Thomasville will take place in Athletic Park this afternoon, when a team from Valdosta will tackle the Thomasvilles. The game will be called promptly at 3 o'clock and it is expected that a large crowd will witness it. Valdosta, it is said, has a splendid team, but we doubt very seriously if they have any advantage of our boys. The home team is composed of the best athletes in the city and they have been doing some hard work preparing for the struggle to-day. They are fully equipped with uniforms, protectors, masks, etc., and feel confident that they will win the game. Go out and see it. It is sure to entertain you.

Without Realizing they were doing so, and Unknown Until Now, It Appears that L. Schmidt, and thus Thomasville, set the Precedent for Fine Food with Football in South Georgia at the 1895 game between The Thomasvilles and Valdosta.

“After the game Mr. L. Schmidt treated the boys to a delightful surprise in the shape of a splendid supper of turkey, oysters and other dainty dishes.” from DTE

Above: This next to the last paragraph in the foot ball game news coverage stood out, it being included in an article so concentrated on the activity of the game.

It left one curious to know something of this citizen, L. Schmidt, that would be so supportive of this game between The Thomasvilles and Valdosta.

Arriving 1889, Moving 1896

L. Schmidt quickly became a form of mystery. Checking quickly on Ancestry.com he was not found in the 1880 or the 1900 census. The 1890 U.S. Census is not available as it was lost in a fire, 1921, in Washington, D.C. We still do not know what first name the letter “L.” abbreviates.

An internet search provided the first clues. One early 1880s photograph showed an L. Schmidt storefront in Spartanburg, SC. The other item appearing on an internet search was a bottle embossed with “Thomasville Bottling Works L. Schmidt.”

This sparse information led to searches of digitized Thomasville newspapers on the internet. From these articles an interesting story of L. Schmidt emerges.

A small selection from the many entries on L. Schmidt: From the *Daily Times Enterprise* [DTE]

December 1888

“Mr. L. Schmidt, of Spartanburg, S.C., is in this city seeking a location for a bottling and fruit business, with a view of manufacturing soda water etc. We hope he may find a suitable location and go into the business. Thomasville is an inviting field for all kinds of enterprises.”

1889

April 20. L. Schmidt is the proprietor of Thomasville Bottle Works, Jackson Street

May 4. Mr. Schmidt, on Jackson Street, will soon open an elegant parlor for summer refreshments, ice cream, soda water, milk shakes, etc.

May 25. Salesman, traveling for Thomasville Bottling Works, returned from his rail trip reporting fine sales in Ochlocknee, Camilla, Albany and other points on the route.

May 26. Mr. L. Schmidt has just purchased the largest and handsomest soda water fountain in the city for his establishment on Jackson Street. It will contain twenty two varieties of syrup.

May 31. In an ad Schmidt tells of using Hutchinson bottles,

June 7. Receiving orders for soda water faster than he can fill them.

June 9. L. Schmidt has opened an Ice Cream parlor on Jackson Street in the location formerly occupied by Mrs. Jeane Carroll.

June 23. Well promoted, the proceeds of an entire day go for relief money for Johnstown flood sufferers.

June 1890. Almost the coolest placer in the city is the Ice Cream Parlor and soda water rooms of Mr. L. Schmidt. Everything is as cool as a new pin, and as cool as it is possible to be in our climate. Mr. Schmidt is doing a good business in his bottling department, and is sending his popular beverages all over this section.

1890-1896

L. Schmidt actively participated in community. Mentions of his business and civic activities included below:

Always sold and advertised top and varied products. Mineral spring water imported from Germany in his sodas. Is fixing up his ice cream saloon in handsome style. A new building on Lower Broad and moved his bottling apparatus to this store. Agriculture elements of business handled here. Parlor moved to a Wolff store on Broad Street. Had an Edison shipped in for several days for the public to come see and hear the new invention. Added a pair white squirrels to the parlor menagerie. Listed as a registered voter and member of Monroe Street Fire Company.

Provided oysters for the charity hospital fundraiser. Provided items for the Baptist women's new sanctuary fundraiser, and for the Episcopal women's fundraiser. Promoted a train excursion when Macon team going to Albany for baseball game. He and partner purchased a planing mill and lumber yard, and 2 years later he and partner sold same. Moved to the Wiggins stand on 118 N. Broad Street across from the ladies entrance to the Mitchell House Oyster saloon now open on Broad Street. Pure New York Apple Cider now on draught. A first telephones in 1895

L. Schmidt returns to Spartanburg, SC

August 1, 1896. Reported that L. Schmidt is moving

August 8, 1896. Schmidt reports, “Store home at 118 N. Broad St. occupied by me is for rent.”

September 9, 1896. L. Schmidt was leaving for Spartanburg. Had sold to Tuttle.

L. Schmidt evidently was a keen study of business trends and environment. He went to Thomasville during the height of the resort era. He was perhaps quickly observant of changing times as railroads were completed farther down the east coast of Florida, this becoming a new destination for the northern winter tourists. Even in 1889-1890 the Georgia Southern & Florida Rail that came from Macon, to Valdosta, then Palatka, FL on the St. John's River, was a harbinger of this change. Some first rail went from Jacksonville, to St. Augustine, then to the St. John's, then to the Ormond, Daytona, Halifax area. Soon Flagler ran rail to the future Titusville and West Palm Beach, 1894, where there were record freezes in 1894 and 1895. A land owner in Biscayne Bay is said to have wired Flagler that the orange blossoms there had not frozen and with incentives Flagler expedited extending rail to future Miami in April 1896. By September 1896 Schmidt was returning to Spartanburg. The most significant and enduring legacy of the resort era in Thomasville, is perhaps not the hotel tourist, but the wealthy visitors that purchased the old plantations. On these are large tracts that preserve old growth areas of our Longleaf Pine / Wiregrass Ecosystem.

December 25, 1897, *DTE*, Schmidt reported he is well in his old place. ... His old store in Spartanburg had been Schmidt and Beade 1877 to 1889.

For us, L. Schmidt remains mysterious, no birth date, no death date, no first name, and no photograph.

Do You Own an L. Schmidt Thomasville Bottle?

An internet search when looking for information on the mysterious L. Schmidt produced images of his bottles, this thanks to the Sam Evans of Athens, GA website. Evans grew up in Thomas County and his grandfather owned a drugstore in Coolidge. He has an extensive collection with some of Georgia listed by town. He shows three different L. Schmidt Thomasville bottles with one style classified as "Rare" and the other two depending on condition.

I also contacted one of the largest bottle collectors in south Georgia and he said that L. Schmidt bottles are rare. He spoke of one in his collection. The collectors are interested in the bottles, neither were aware of the L Schmidt story with his few years in Thomasville. Bottle collectors provide interesting conversation as bottles are found in varying places. The collectors will be provided this newsletter so they will have information on L. Schmidt.

If you do have an L. Schmidt Thomasville bottle know that it provides you a show and tell football story, that L. Schmidt, after 125 years, can be cited as setting a precedent for football with fine food in south Georgia - this from the 1895 game, The Thomasvilles versus Valdosta. So, "Cheers!" to L. Schmidt at your next tailgate.

* Upcoming Book Includes Rare Local Bottle*

S. Schwinn, Valdosta Bottling Works

Unrelated to the L. Schmidt Thomasville Bottling Works an author/researcher in Florida very recently contacted the museum seeking information for his soon to be released book **Early Georgia Sodas, The Bottles and Proprietors**. The study is of non Hutchinson bottles in Georgia. Ready to go to the publisher, a bottle expert in Augusta alerted him to the almost unknown Valdosta bottle that he had not known. Fortunately, in 2019, Bob Schroer had donated the museum its first S. Schwinn bottle which will be shown in the book. More information to follow when the book is soon released.

Below: Our first known local to be on an "official" football team, Henry Sims Morgan, *front row, second from the left*, a member of the 1896 U.S. Military Academy, West Point, Army Black Knights team. We acquired this photo from the West Point archives. He graduated, Class of 1897, Engineering, and drowned off Tybee Island attempting to save others offshore in a severe storm.

In 1895 UGA and Mercer fielded teams. Georgia Tech did not have an 1895 team, but all three had 1892 games as their first. Valdosta High would begin play in 1913, eighteen years after The Thomasvilles and Valdosta inter-city game in 1895.



20 Years Ago: When the Towers Collapsed

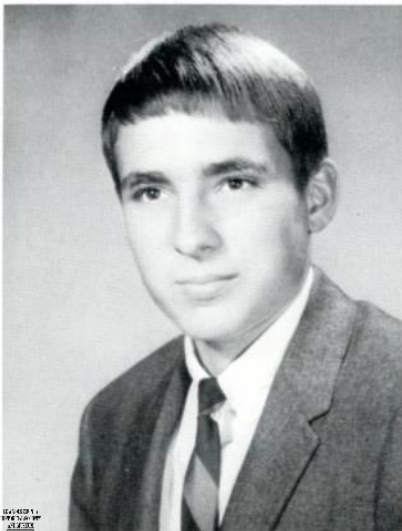
On September 11, 2001 Valdosta native Stephen Paine escaped Two World Trade Center after the surprise attack. Ed Willis, LCHS president, contacted Stephen to write his story of escape. We recently contacted Stephen to ask that we permanently place his story on the museum website and he consented. On the site go to newsletters, and then to year 2001. Stephen reminded us that Ed Willis was the reason this story got written. The excerpt below begins his narrative.

"Until September 11, 2001, I had never known New York City without the World Trade Center. For the last twelve years it had been where I worked, shopped and ate. I started my work there on September 23, 1989 on the 58th floor of One World Trade Center at Brown and Wood, a law firm. By September 11, 2001, I had a different job, as an in-house attorney with Morgan Stanley, finding myself on the 59th floor of Two World Trade Center."



Connecting the Dots: Stephen Paine, His Siblings & many Class Reunions

As time passes people tell us they like being reminded of connections. Stephen Paine, *above*, VHS Class of 1982, is younger by more than a decade from all of his siblings. *Above right*, Joy Paine Snyder, Columbia, SC, VHS Class of 1971, *below left*, Matt Paine, MD, Moultrie, GA, VHS Class of 1967, and *below right*, Anne Paine West, Alexandria, VA, VHS Class of 1970. Matt's class is set to have a 55th year reunion on March 25-26, 2022. A member of Stephen's class reported they are planning a 40th year reunion later in 2022. With Covid-19 delays, the Classes of 1970 and 1971 are holding a combined function for their delayed 50th Reunions, then to be at years 52 and 51, the weekend of April 8-9, 2022.



Memberships 2021

Continued from previous newsletter

Place of residence listed for those
Outside of Lowndes County
Received by August 15, 2021

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

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Orange Park, FL

Sharon Denzer Holland

James A. Horton

Quitman, GA

Jack O. and Carolyn Howell

Esther Hunt

Dr. and Mrs. John L. McGowan

Molly Mcnamara

New Orleans, LA

Sherry Cowart Ogden

Tampa, FL

Stephen Paine

New York, NY

Ronnie and Jadan A. Pitcock

Philip M. Poole *

Dennis and Leigh P. Smith

Emily Smotherman

Tucker, GA

Nancy Patterson Stone

Clemson, SC

Lynn Thomas

MEMORIALS

Isabel McLeod Allison

by
Donald O. Davis
J. Edward Willis

Martha June Myrick Brown

Decatur, GA
by
Dr and Mrs. Owen K. Youles

Walton Thomas Carter, Jr.

by
Donald O. Davis
Mary D. Gray
Dr. and Mrs. Owen K. Youles

Wilby Compton Coleman

by
Mary D. Gray
Dr. and Mrs. Owen K. Youles

Capt. Warren C. Graham, Jr.

Ashburn, VA
by
Lilla Kate Hart
Jimmy and Mary Young Manning

Sara 'Sadie' Smith Harbin

by
Lilla Kate Hart
Jimmy and Mary Young Manning

William Daniel Parris, Jr.

by
J. Edward Willis

Joey 'Kokomo' Robinson

by
Robert 'Corky' & Kathleen Cannon
Scottsdale, AZ

Wayne D. Tabacchi

Dearborn, MI
by
Dr. Floyd D. Toth

LaQuita Hood Tschetter

Pompano Beach, FL
by
Kathi W. Hunnewell

Dr. Loyce Warren Turner, Sr.

by
Mary D. Gray

Von Erie Williams

by
Donald O. Davis

Gift in Honor of

Lt. Col. Ret. Robert J. 'Rob' Sweet
Recognizing "He served willingly and heroically in
defense of our great country"

by
Lucy R. Greene, PhD.



Our Appreciation to Summer Interns from VSU

Linda Aycock, Douglas, GA
Sarah Davis, Valdosta, GA

Dr. Barney J. Rickman was the
advising faculty professor for Linda
and Sarah during their internships.
One of our emails to him reported
on the following activity.

"We have been very glad to have
Sarah and Linda. They have ac-
complished much detail work with
databases that will very much ben-
efit the museum long-term. This
also involved organization of the
materials to be entered into data-
bases.

Amy has provided them with diver-
sity by having them process textile
acquisitions, an involved
and interesting process. They
are also cataloguing books and
working on exhibit preparation.

Since we have not had children
and student groups at the muse-
um, for their learning, I had Amy
present the interns the PowerPoint
program that they in turn would
have been presenting to summer
groups during regular operation.

Although not open to the public we
do allow serious researchers in-
side and the interns have had the
opportunity to observe beneficial
use of a local museum archives."

Right: An original "Winnersville,
U.S.A." bumper sticker in the muse-
um archives from December 1978.
The Chamber of Commerce got the
idea from a column by Mike Chason,
then **Valdosta Times** sports editor.
The Winnersville Classic football
game name began in 1981.



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 & 1st Vice President, Sally S. Kurrie; 2nd Vice President, Mary Young Manning; Secretary; Treasurer, Ed Hightower; Past President, In Memory, Patsy T. Giles

September 16, 4 P. M. Membership Meeting in Annex
 October 11 Closed for Columbus Day
 November 11, 11 A.M. WWI Armistice Bells of Peace Commemoration
 Museum grounds at the 1889 Valdosta Institute Bell
 November 24-27 Closed for Thanksgiving
 November-December Jingle Bells Christmas Tree and History
 December 23—January 4 Annual Museum Closing
 Contact by emails below or phone if necessary during annual closure

Lowndes County Historical Society & Museum

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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

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Textiles Curator and Research.

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