

GWINNETT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Box 261 Lawrenceville, Ga. 30245

(Spring issue, A March, 1975)

SNELLVILLE HISTORY TO BE TOLD

Neighborhood talk and family tradition will be woven into the history of Snellville when the city's mayor speaks to the Gwinnett Historical Society Monday, March 17, at 7:30 p.m. in the restored Female Seminary, Perry and Seminary streets, Lawrenceville. Mayor Emmett Clower will recount many stories told by his aunt Hazel (Mrs. Henry Clower), who will also be at the meeting, if health permits. Another resource for Snellville history comes from a booklet written four years ago by a high school student, Terry Phillips, who got most of his detail from Aunt Hazel. The Mayor is the fourth generation of Clowers to be born in the Snellville area. He is related by marriage to James Sawyer, one of the two first settlers there. How the 100-year-old settlement, formerly known as New London, got its new name will be part of Mayor Clower's talk.

PRESERVATIONISTS, TAKE HEART

Norcross people who had been worrying about the possible destruction of the old stone house, known as the Buchanan-Tedder home, are happy to learn it has been sold again and will be occupied by a young couple with children. The entire block had been set for demolition in favor of apartment construction, but the townspeople would not allow it. (The house was built around 1900 by Edward Buchanan, manufacturer of Nor-X autos in Norcross. He gave the house to his foster parents, the Tedders, who took him in as an orphaned youth.)

FEMALE SEMINARY RECEIVES ORGAN

William Jones of Duluth has donated an antique pump organ to the restored Female Seminary. Miss Annie Frances Flanigan, Chairman of the Gwinnett County Historical Restoration and Preservation Board, in accepting the gift, asked that others donate artifacts typical of the period 1836-1900, during which the school operated. The upstairs will have a museum of such items. Also upstairs is a room given to Marvin Worthy by Gwinnett County for his research activities in compiling Volume III of Gwinnett County history. The old school room downstairs is used for meetings now, including the Gwinnett Historical Society on the third Monday evenings of each month.

DAVID PLUNKETT ON DEAN'S LIST

David H. Plunkett, a senior at Georgia Tech, was on the fall semester Dean's list. He is the son of a past president of Gwinnett Historical Society Hiram Plunkett and Mrs. Plunkett.

GHS SUPPORTS HERITAGE SPECIAL

Our Executive Board has indicated support for The Heritage Special, a four-car train that will stay a week in various Georgia towns in 1976. The mobile exhibition will include crafts and scenes from the past. It is headquartered at Georgia Agrirama, Tifton, Georgia.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Charles Pentecost for the informative and enjoyable programs he is arranging for our Historical Society.

STUDENT HISTORIAN RESEARCHES MCAFEE-HOLCOMBE BRIDGE

Our student representative, Tracy Power, 16-year-old Berkmar High School student and weekly columnist for the Gwinnett Daily News, recently wrote two articles on Civil War activities at the McAfee Bridge over the Chattahoochee River. He began his research where our Society left off, following last November's meeting with Fulton County commissioners at which time they agreed to preserve the 140-year old buttresses still standing in the river. A plaque will be placed on the largest of the two stone pillars as soon as GHS can provide a complete factual history of the bridge. Searching in the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, Tracy has come up with the following facts:

- June 10, 1864: Skirmish at the bridge.
- June 11, 1864: Col. Robert H. G. Minty of the Union's First Brigade drove Rebel pickets from McAfee's Cross Roads.
- June 11, 1864: Minty attacked Gen. W. T. Martin's Confederate Division at McAfee's Cross Roads and drove them one mile back.
- June 21, 1864: Union patrol went "north to McAfee's Cross Roads" and met small scouting parties.
- July 9, 1864: Second Brigade, 4th Ohio Cavalry, under Col. Eli Long, skirmished at the bridge and held it.
- July 18, 1864: Second Brigade, 3d Ohio Cavalry, crossed the Chattahoochee at McAfee's Bridge and camped 1½ miles from it.
- July 17, 1864: Entire 2d Cavalry Division, Army of the Cumberland, USA, under General Kenner Garrard, crossed the river there and camped at Cross Keys.
- August 8, 1864: Union cavalry battalion scouted McAfee's Bridge; found only scattered Confederate cavalry.

Mrs. L. C. Garrard (no relation to the Yankee General) who lives in the old Holcombe house on the Fulton County side of the Chattahoochee, believes the Yankees burned the bridge. Her aunt, the late Miss Ida Benson, often recounted a story told by her grandparents, who lived during the War Between the States. The story goes that the Yankees stayed in the McAfee house and camped in the area for quite awhile --maybe a month. One day, the Yanks emptied a feather bed, scattered the feathers in the road between the house and the store (both still standing), rode their horses through the feathers, galloped over the bridge towards Roswell and burned the bridge. So far, no documentation has been found to support this story, but the Society hopes that an old diary or letter might be found that will indicate what unit actually destroyed the bridge.

ARNOLD FAMILY HISTORY ACQUIRED BY SOCIETY

"Some Ancestors and Descendants of Benjamin Arnold of King William County, Va., and Greenville, S. C." by Hazel Arnold MacIvor was presented to the Gwinnett Historical Society at the February meeting. Marvin Worthy, county historian, made the presentation on behalf of the author, a former Gwinnett resident and member of the Society. There are many references to Gwinnett Countians in the 165-page indexed volume. It was published by The Arnold Family Association of the South, Lake Orion, Michigan.

SOCIETY MEMBERS ON THE GO

Gwinnett Historical Society members have widely divergent interest and activities as evidenced by the followings:

Mrs. Lillian Webb, was elected mayor of Norcross. John Hood, area volunteer resource coordinator for Georgia Department of Human Resources, recently made the front page in the "Georgia Volunteer," which told of his activities in securing volunteers for food stamp and other programs. (One volunteer he secured is Miss Annie Frances Flanigan, another member.) Miss Flanigan is also new chairman of Gwinnett County's Restoration Committee for the Lawrenceville Female Seminary.

Mrs. John Ray Buice, librarian for Buford High School, was pictured in the paper accepting from the author a book -- "The Mystery of the Other Girl" by Wylie Folk St. John. Our Irving, Texas member, Helen Widener, and her husband, James F., are proud parents of a son, John Mackay Widener. The future historian is six months old now. Evelyn Mays returns soon from a three-month Airstream caravan tour of Mexico.

MORE AWARDS FOR EDWARDS

Past President James M. Edwards, already decorated and honored many times by patriotic and genealogical groups, has just received another honor. He has been made the 15th Life Member ever of the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association in Alexandria, Va. It is the same fire station -- and in the same building -- of which George Washington was a member. Edwards also returned recently from a trip to Washington, D. C. where, as a national trustee of the Sons of the Revolution, he helped plan the national SAR convention to be held in August in Alexandria.

REVOLUTIONARY VETS IN GWINNETT

Alice McCabe has made up a typed list, in alphabetical order, of Gwinnett residents who resided in Georgia 1824-1827 who won land in the Land Lottery drawings of 1827. The lottery listed, after each name, such keys as "w" for widow, RS for Revolutionary Soldier, orph for orphans, etc. If there was no abbreviation after a name, Mrs. McCabe assumed the winner was in none of the above categories. Every male, white free person, over 18, who lived in Georgia at least three years prior to 1827, was allowed one draw. A veteran, widow, or orphan got a second draw. From the Official Land Lottery of 1827, Mrs. McCabe has abstracted the names of 121 Revolutionary War veterans or their widows who won land in Gwinnett County. Mrs. McCabe will have this mimeographed and bound if there is enough interest shown in such a publication. If there is any profit, the Historical Society will benefit, she says.

TOMBSTONE TALK

A recent story in the Gwinnett Daily News about the Gwinnett Historical Society seeking information on old graves that might be lost in time, evinced the following information:

Loy O. Lankford of 6024 Lawrenceville Hwy., Tucker, Ga. (Ph. 938-4158). He lives in a 100-year-old home near the DeKalb County line. There is a small cemetery across the highway from his home where relatives of William Nesbit, second sheriff of Gwinnett County, are buried. A block west of the Lankford home is the old Calvary cemetery. Almost forgotten is another cemetery on Towns Road. Mr. Lankford, a member of a pioneer Gwinnett family, will take anyone interested on a tour of these burial places.

Horace McAdams, Brooks Rd., Dacula, Ga., says there is an old cemetery on a knoll, deep in the woods, at the end of Ace McMillan Rd., off Harbins Rd. Tombstone inscriptions there are of Brook and Hall. McAdams' great grandfather, a Mr. Jennigs, is buried in a small cemetery at Bramblett Shoals.

Our GHS cemetery committee will no doubt follow up on these leads and any others that arise. The committee is delighted, too, to have anyone, whether a member or not, to record inscriptions on monuments in old graveyards. Just copy everything you can read. (A dusting with bread flour, applied with a soft brush, will often bring out hard-to-read lettering.)

*green underline =
GHS has complete listing*

WINNETT CEMETERIES

Franklin Garrett, Atlanta historian, who is compiling a necrology of Atlanta, has agreed to share with our Society his records of Gwinnett cemetery interments over the past 50 years. Anyone wishing specific information should channel queries through Gwinnett Historical Society, P.O. Box 261, Lawrenceville, Ga., 30245.

He has recorded the following burying grounds—Anderson-McGuire, Antioch Baptist, Beard, Bethany Missionary Baptist, Bethel Presbyterian, Bethesda Church, Boyce-Meshack, Brewer-Quinn, Brooks, Buchanan-King, Camp Creek Baptist, Carroll, Chestnut Grove Baptist, Corinth Baptist, * Craig, Dean, Duncan's Creek Congregational, Duluth Baptist, Duluth Methodist, Fairview Presbyterian, Flint Hill, Friendship Primitive Baptist, Garner, Gober, Goodwin, Hale, Harmony Grove Methodist, Haney, Haynes Creek Primitive Baptist, Hog Mountain, Holt, Hopewell Christian, Jacobs, Johnson, * Jones, Lanier, Old Lawrenceville (formerly Methodist), * Lebanon Baptist, Lee, Level Creek Methodist, Liberty Baptist, Luxonni Baptist, Moafes-Holcombe-Bentley, McCurdy-Mahaffay, McKerley, Martin's Chapel Methodist, Methodist (Old one in Loganville), Miller (Mark & Lucinda), * Mt. Carmel Methodist, * Mt. Moriah Baptist, Mt. Vernon Baptist, Mt. Zion Baptist, Nashit (DeKalb-Gwinnett line), New Hope, Norcross, Old Field Baptist, Old New Hope, Old Rockbridge, Oliver-Braswell, Pleasant Grove Methodist, Richey, Rockbridge Baptist, Rocksprings Methodist, Shadowbrook, * Shadowlawn (recorded 24 May 1936), Shiloh Baptist, Snellville, Sodom, Strickland, Suwanee Methodist, Sweetwater Primitive Baptist, Teague, Trinity Christian, Waley, Williams (Isham & Gwynn), * Wynn, * Yellow River Primitive Baptist, Zion Hill Baptist, Zoar Methodist.

* Our Society also has recorded these, as well as: Brandon-Clower, Gower, Methodist Church of Suwanee, Morrow (Thomas, Jane and John) ←

Mrs. R. S. LINK, 3180 La Vista, Decatur Ga. 30033
he has

Cemetery Chairman: Mrs. R. G. Mays, P.O. Box 106, Lilburn, Ga., 30247.

AUGUSTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GIRL INTERESTED IN
WINNETT COUNTY HISTORY

Constance Lawrence of 1632 Carpenter St., Augusta, Ga., 30901, wrote to the Gwinnett Historical Society on January 19 asking for help in finding material for a history class report on Gwinnett County. Our President sent and suggested material for her class report.

ATKINSON COMPLIMENTS SOCIETY

William Atkinson, chairman of Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners, has complimented the work of GHS in preserving and perpetuating the historical heritage of the county. He has made these offers, which have been accepted:

1. The Gwinnett Historical Society has Number One priority for meetings in the restored Female Seminary.
2. The Seminary building is available to the Society without cost.
3. Entrusted the Seminary key to the GHS president, whomever he may be.

OLDEST BIBLE

Mrs. Robert G. Mays of Lilburn, who is compiling information for the Society from old Bibles, says the oldest Bible she has seen so far was printed in 1828. It records the birth of James Hood and his wife, the former Janet L. Dunlap, who came to Gwinnett County from South Carolina between 1824 and 1828. Hood was born 25 September 1789 and Janet on 21 August 1796. They were married 30 January 1816. They are the great grandparents of John James Hood, a past president of our Society. The Bible is the first American edition of Matthew Henry's "Exposition of the Old and New Testaments."

SKILLET LICKERS' MUSIC ENTERTAINS SOCIETY

Gordon Tanner, leader of the Junior Skillet Lickers country music band, brought a lively program to the February meeting. He told about the original Skillet Lickers of the Thirties, begun by his father, the late Gid Tanner. The group played for barn raisings, theatres, auctions, candidates, and state fairs. In 1922, Gid was approached by Columbia Records to go to New York and make records. When Columbia moved its machinery to Atlanta twice a year, the band recorded such tunes as "Corn Licker Still in Georgia" and "Possum Hunt in Georgia." The biggest hit came in 1934, when the Skillet Lickers' rendition of "Down Yonder" sold a million records. As a result, Gid Tanner was immortalized in Nashville's Country Music Hall of Fame. That toe-tappin' record was played at the Historical meeting. In addition, Gordon played on instruments he had made himself, following Stradivarius blueprints. The same instrument, played one way is a violin --bowed differently and it becomes a fiddle. Either way, the capacity audience enjoyed Tanner's music and down-home humor.

GWINNETT COUNTY HISTORY VOLUME III PROGRESSES

Marvin Worthy, County Historian, told the Gwinnett Historical Society of his research to date on Volume III of Gwinnett history. Speaking at our December meeting, he said that he will leave census records as they appeared, showing neighbors, etc., rather than alphabetize them. Librarians have recommended that he assemble the book by town areas instead of subject matter; by doing this, he will lay the groundwork for future local historians. He feels an important part of his book will be its bibliography showing his sources. Pre-Civil War marriages, fortunately not lost in the 1871 courthouse fire, have been recorded by the Ordinary's office and are being decoded by Worthy. Thus, the records will show the race of each couple. Mr. Worthy says that the best storehouse of historical information is within the Society itself. He needs more details about early musicians and artists. He can be reached at Box 333, Lilburn, Ga. 30247. His new office in the Female Seminary building has no phone and will not be opened to the public.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DIRECTOR TELLS OF GWINNETT'S PROGRESS

Len Gilbert, Executive Director of the Gwinnett County Chamber of Commerce, told the January Society meeting of the aims of the Chamber. He said they cooperate with educators, police, churchmen, etc., to let them know the needs of industries that plan to move in here. Although some people advocate keeping everything as it always was, Mr. Gilbert says this is impossible because anything not changing is dying. There are 250 industries in the county now. The Chamber is interested in preservation of historic sites only as a cultural attraction.

NEW MEMBERS

Membership Chairman John Hood reported a total of 20 new members during 1974 including 11 from Gwinnett, five in other Georgia cities, three from Texas and one from Oklahoma. Latest names added to the roster are: Chris Lindsay (student) of Dacula, Mr. & Mrs. Harold Medlock of Norcross, C. B. Patterson of Duluth, Claude Jordan of Covington, Ga., Randolph Simpson of Snellville, Ralph Simpson of Lawrenceville and Jack Brogdon of Lawrenceville.

NEW MEETING PLACE AND NEW MEETING TIME

President Roy Hutchens announced at the January meeting that we would experiment for four months, beginning in February, with meeting on the third Monday evening of each month and in the Restored Female Seminary. If attendance and interest warrant, the new time and place will remain. We would like to measure reaction to the new time and place by the enthusiastic crowd at the February meeting. There is no doubt, the new surroundings in the 19th Century school building are inspiring. Furthermore, the appointment of a refreshment committee

to serve light snacks and drinks after the meetings appeals to our social instincts.

1975 COMMITTEES NAMED

President Roy Hutchens appointed chairmen, and the Executive Board filled in committee members.

Program-Charles Pentecost (963-8425) chm., Annie Frances Flanigan, James Edwards, Evelyn Mays.

Publications -Alice McCabe(963-9584) chm., Frances Medlock, Tracy Power, Mary Alice Juhan.

Membership-John J. Hood (963-6462) chm., Mrs. John Ray Buice, Mrs. Hoke Green Smith.

By-Laws-John J. Hood (963-6462) chm., Marvin Worthy, J. H. Summerour.

Library-Mrs. John Ray Buice (945-9528) chm., Mrs. W. A. Cooper, Mrs. Annie Manning.

Historic Sites-Mrs. Lucille Baldwin (923-1024) chm., John Nix, J.H. Summerour, Marvin Worthy.

Cemeteries & Bibles -Mrs. Robert G. Mays (921-2343) chm., Mrs. Ann Lynn Link, Eugene Chatham,

Hiram Plunkett, Tracy Power, Alice McCabe.

Nominating- Hiram Plunkett (945-7068) chm., Mrs. John Martin, John Hood.

Refreshments -Mrs. Julia Bagwell (963-3466) chm., Miss Annie Frances Flanigan.

Student Rep. -Tracy Power (476-2441) chm. Eugene Chatham, Chris Lindsay.

Bicentennial Rep. -Alice McCabe (963-9584)

OLDEST MEMBER

Mrs. Mary Lou Sanders of 1504 Mimosa Place, Waycross, Ga. sent 1975 dues to Mrs. Mildred Martin, our Treasurer, to cover her membership and that of her 90-year-old mother, Mrs. Cora Etheridge Stevenson, who is in an East Point, Ga. nursing home. Writes Mrs. Sanders: "Two years ago Mama broke a hip. Then this January 2 she fell and broke the other one. She is doing very well for a lady of 90½ years."

The Historical Society wishes a speedy recovery for its oldest member, Mrs. Stevenson.

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This quarterly Newsletter was compiled by Mrs. Alice McCabe and Roy E. Hutchens