

Burial Ground of a First Family of Lowndes Reclaimed

The first Folsom to reach America arrived at Boston, Massachusetts, in 1638. The original English spellings of the name were "Folshum" and Foulsham," and its meaning was "homestead of the birds." The meaning seems especially fitting when one experiences the serenity and pleasant setting of the Old Folsom Cemetery in Lowndes County. Located west of Hahira off highway 122, this burial ground is on Folsom Road, a picturesque, unpaved canopy road that readily carries one back in time.

Lawrence Armstrong Folsom, born in 1772, came to what was then Irwin County, and is now Lowndes in the early 1820s. This pioneer cleared virgin land to provide sustenance and a livelihood for his family. On the very same land he was buried in 1842, marking the beginning of the present old Folsom Cemetery.

Among the earliest settlers of Lowndes County were families named Belote, Folsom, Rountree, and Vickers. The nine known graves in the small Folsom burial ground include those of Rachel Vickers Folsom and Annie Rountree Folsom, which illustrates how the pioneer families intermarried and became linked together. Also buried there is Randall Folsom, 1799-1875, a son of Lawrence Folsom. Randall Folsom was locally prominent in both secular and religious affairs. He served as a Justice of the Inferior court in the 1820s and 1830s and was a state senator in 1831. Folsom was a

*Ronald Folsom, Huntsville, AL
and Edgar Gornto, Cook
County, GA.*



*Left to right: Jesse Folsom, Allen Folsom, Randy Folsom,
J. Gregg Howell and Jack Howell*

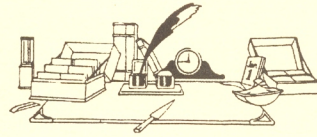
charter member and a trustee of Mount Zion Methodist Campground, organized in 1828. Later, after its establishment in 1856, he transferred his membership to Salem Methodist Church. Subsequently, many early Lowndes County Folsoms were buried in this church's cemetery.

On November 8, 2003, with the chainsaw replacing the ax and the tractor replacing the mule, the descendants of Lawrence Folsom respectfully gathered and began reclaiming the Old Folsom Cemetery from underbrush and trees. The coordinator of the reclamation and restoration project is Ronald Folsom, of Huntsville, Alabama. His goals are to: clean the site, remove renegade trees, plant grass, locate unmarked graves, restore existing headstones, repair and reset broken headstones, and install a fence around the site. He also projects the probability of applying for a Georgia Historical marker.

Folsom progeny assisting with the project are Jack and Gregg Howell, who own the Old Folsom site; a grandfather, son, and grandson trio—Jessie, Randy, and Allen Folsom—who live nearby on old Coffee Road, the first major route into South Georgia for settlers; and Edgar Gornto, of Cook County, who is a LCHS member.

According to Ronald Folsom, the story of his family's burial ground typifies the plight of old cemeteries and is characteristic of a crisis in the preservation of the history of local communities.

Albert's Desk



By Albert S. Pendleton, Jr.

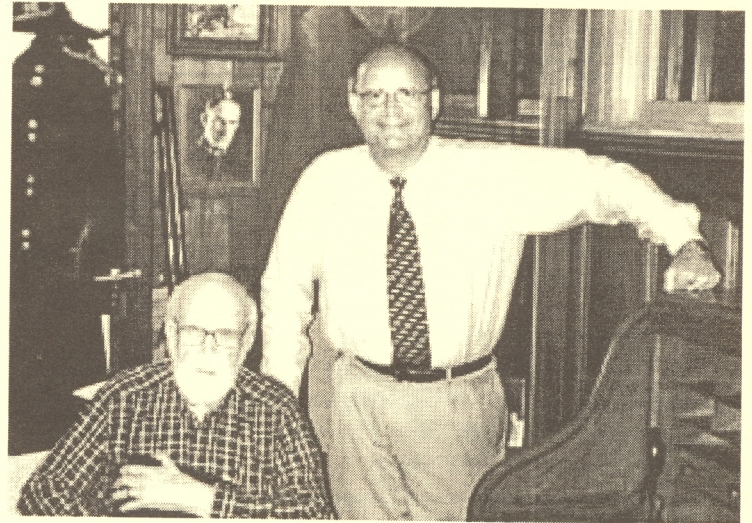
The "MARRY" history of Valdosta

This column is taken from the Oklahoma Enid News & Eagle from an article written by Jeff Mullin. Mr. Mullin visited the museum on Monday October 13, the day after Mayor Rainwater died. Enid, OK is the home of Vance Air Force Base. The newspaper is doing a series on other locations with bases and how they prepare for BRAC, Base Realignment and Closure. Since much of the column deals with Moody's historical importance to Valdosta, this article is a compliment to our museum exhibit opening December 6 on 100 years of flight in Valdosta. The Enid newspaper ran twelve nice articles on Moody and Valdosta, but we were especially proud that the museum article made the front page.

In 1941, when Moody Air Field opened near here, many local residents were thrilled - but it was not due to patriotism or the base's economic impact on the area. "The women in town started marrying guys from Moody," said Donald Davis, administrative director of Lowndes County Historical Society. "Mother Moody, my friend calls it," said archivist, historian and author Albert S. Pendleton, 78. "What would we have done without her?" When asked if residents of the area were solidly in favor of building Moody Field prior to World War II, Pendleton replied, "I think so. The girls were overjoyed." The USO in Valdosta was a lively place in those days, said Pendleton. "They kept it going day and night," he said. Pendleton's wife of more than 50 years, Leona, lived across the street from the USO in those days and attracted her share of attention from the young Moody fliers. "She would go over there and dance with them," said Pendleton, "and when the night was over some of them would want to take her home. She'd say, 'Well, all right.' When they got outside and across the street, she'd say, 'Well, I'm home.'" Leona Pendleton, then Leona Redles, also was what was known as a "Moody Maid." "They would put them in a bus and cart them out to the base to dance with the boys out there," Albert said.

A large supply of single men wasn't the only change Moody Field, now called Moody Air Force Base, brought to Valdosta and Lowndes County. For one thing, the local movie theater began showing films on Sundays, but not during church hours, at the request of local religious leaders. "It was for the soldiers, but we enjoyed it too," said Pendleton, a lifelong resident of the area.

Also, at the same time, a proposal to permit pasteurized milk to be brought into Valdosta was passed by the local city council. But milk wasn't the only thing the young men stationed at Moody were drinking. "Moody caused a lot of beer joints to show up," said Pendleton. The owner of a downtown Valdosta hotel, which now houses senior citizens, built a bar on the street level and another behind the hotel. "He had a cocktail lounge, something we'd never had before," said Pendleton. Pendleton's

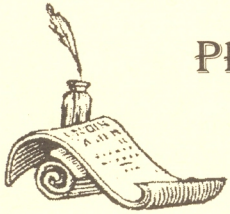


family was in the wholesale grocery business, and their business increased after Moody was established. The home-building business in the area also grew. The Valdosta area long has been associated with aviation, said Davis. The first two women to receive pilots licenses in Georgia came from Valdosta and famed aviator Wiley Post landed there. "When they submitted application to locate a base here, there were people here familiar with aviation," said Davis. "It was a hotbed of flight in the late '20s and the very early '30s." Moody boomed through the war years but was closed in 1947. The local reaction? "Gloom," said Pendleton. "It was pretty terrible for a while." In 1951, the Korean War created a need for more pilots, so the base reopened. "When it opened again, at my house we started getting these phone calls in the middle of the night, saying 'Come get me, come pick me up,'" said Pendleton. "We didn't know what was happening. When I asked them where they were going they said, 'We're calling the gate.'" The phone number at Moody's main gate, it seemed, was similar to the Pendleton family's number.

With another round of Base Realignment and Closure coming in 2005, Valdosta is doing everything it can to ensure Moody doesn't close again. "For over 100 years, this town has really tried to make things happen," said Davis. "It's been a community dynamic that has made this town grow where other south Georgia communities have not done so." Between 1880 and 1890, Valdosta's population nearly doubled. "We became the richest part of the state," said Pendleton. According to Davis, Valdosta has the distinction of once having a Georgia governor, a U.S. senator, and a president live there. George W. Bush did his undergraduate pilot training and received his wings from Moody Air Force Base. The senator was Col. W.S. West, and the governor was M.E. Thompson.

The museum housing the historical society is located in the old Carnegie Library near downtown Valdosta. It contains displays on subjects ranging from gunfighter Doc Holliday, perhaps Valdosta's most infamous resident, to the S. S. Valdosta Victory, a World War II Victory Ship named after the city.

Lowndes County Historical Society
and Museum
Valdosta, Georgia



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Members,

We were saddened by the death of our mayor, Jimmy Rainwater. Mayor Rainwater was truly a friend of the Lowndes County Historical Society and he will be missed. When we were reopening our Museum after a long restoration and for many events after that, the Mayor was always in attendance. I think he had a real interest in Lowndes County's past and was so very instrumental in taking us into the future with our metropolitan status. Our condolences to his family.

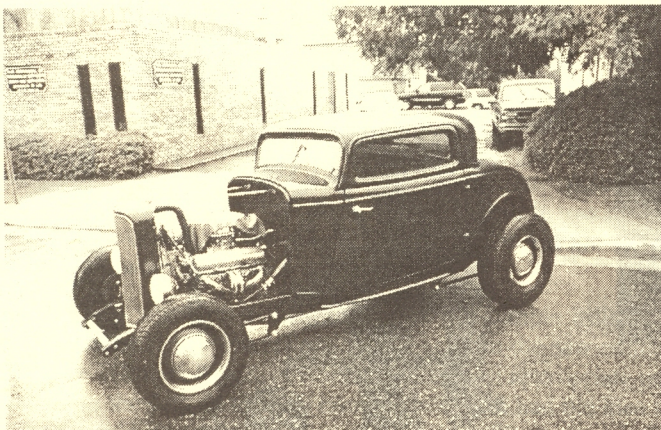
We are keeping busy with our new programs and projects. Our tent exhibit on Courthouse Square as part of the Classic Car show on October 11 was well received. We had over 30 visitors sign our book. This was a good response since it was such a rainy day.

Plans are underway for our "100 Years of Flight" exhibit on December 6. We will do a small version for our tent exhibit and a large version for the Museum.

We have a slight change in next year's calendar. Due to a scheduling conflict with a university program, our "History 100 Dinner" has moved from March 26 to March 27, 2004. We decided to simply move to Saturday. I hope this does not pose any inconvenience. We are planning a wonderful evening so mark your calendars.

Julie Smith

Classic Car Show



The Historical Society used its mobile tent exhibit for the first time at the downtown Classic Car Show in October. Dr. Marvin Smith, a racing enthusiast and a LCHS trustee, helped us put together an exhibit on racing in Valdosta. He is still researching the history of racing in our area and is seeking information on this niche of our history. Please contact us if you have photographs of racetracks, racecars, or race related history.

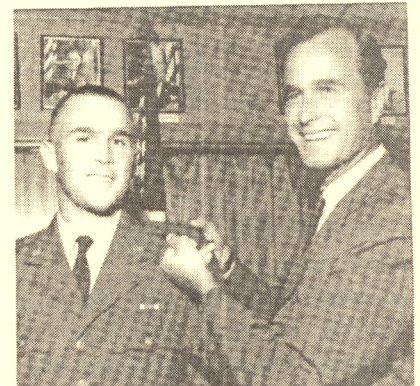
100 Years of Flight ...in Valdosta



***Famed as
Georgia's
Flying Twins***
The Atlanta
Constitution,
February 20, 1930

Exhibit opening
in conjunction with
Winterfest
December 6, 2003
12 noon – 5 p.m.

*At Moody AFB,
George W. Bush
gets his bars pinned
on by his father
congressman
George H.W. Bush*



Museum News

Lowndes County Historical Society
and Museum
Valdosta, Georgia



Class Reunion

On Sunday, October 5, 2003 the Valdosta High School Class of 1943 included the museum as part of their 60th reunion activities. Class member Rev. John McGowan was the speaker. The class of 1944 was also invited. Pictured from left to right are Mildred Sheffield Evans, Valdosta; Madge Miller Moore, Mexico, Missouri; Billie Smith Sims, Valdosta; Louise Mock Mott, Gainesville, Florida; Mattie Bell Goodson Szymanski, Valdosta; and John Sims, Valdosta.



Hahira Elementary School 3rd grade visits the Museum

In groups of 40 students, 120 Hahira Elementary 3rd grade students visited the museum in October. They completed the downstairs exhibit historic scavenger hunt and watched the slide show. The 3rd grade boys grumbled in rebuttal at one particular slide of a ca. 1915 postcard of Hahira with the inscription: "Looking down Main Street, Hahira, Georgia, the Town That Is Noted for Its Pretty Girls." Pictured are students from Mr. Brian Mainor's class, left to right: Leah McLeod, Anna Morey, Kendra Copeland, Theresa Perez.

BAVA – "Keep 'em Turning"

BAVA- Berlin Airlift Veterans Association.

In July we received an e-mail from William K. Jones of Texas for information on Sunset Hill Cemetery and verification that it is the burial site of Capt. William R. Howard. We also put Jones in contact with Mrs. Ellinor Morgan Howard, the widow of Capt. Howard. Jones explained their program of honoring the 32 airmen who died during the Berlin Airlift. Jones passed the information on to Fred Hall of Maryland, planning coordinator, who scheduled the service for Capt. Howard. On Saturday November 1, Retired Colonel Clarence S. Parker officiated at the ceremony honoring Capt. Howard. Mrs. Howard stated it was the sixth service of the thirty-two.



Riley Howard with his mother, Ellinor Howard, at the grave in Sunset Hill cemetery.

Revolutionary Patriot honored in Lowndes County Cemetery

Pictured are Ray and Carol Kemp.

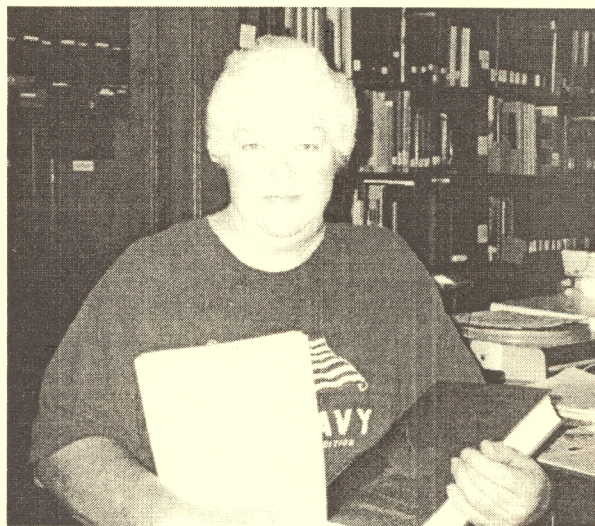
We appreciate Ray and Carol Kemp's donating a menu and other memorabilia of Ma Groover's Restaurant to the museum. Ma Groover made national ranking for her home cooking several times. Cassie Lee Taylor Groover was Ray's grandmother.

Another ancestor of Ray was John Dees, subject of the first Revolutionary War patriot marker in Lowndes County.

This photograph was taken at the commemorative service on November 1, 2003 at Forest Grove Cemetery in south Lowndes County. This cemetery was formerly called Dees Cemetery.



Our thanks to Mrs. Mamie Pipkins, President of the Echols County Historical Society, for bringing in copies of their Newsletters. She does this on a quarterly basis. Come by and pick up a copy if you wish. She also showed us the new revised and updated edition of the *Chinkipin I, II, III*, which is available with much improved photographs. The *Chinkipin* is a collection of stories, local history, and genealogy of Echols County.



Folsom's Logged Lore of Lowndes

Without the writings of Dr. James R. Folsom and Montgomery M. Folsom, the colorful history of early Lowndes County would be unknown to us today. Their writings, mainly from articles in the 1880's in the *Valdosta Times* and *Atlanta Journal* are found in a booklet compiled by Judge Folks Huxford, *South Georgia Historical Collections*. Excerpts follow:

M. M. Folsom

"Away back in the olden days when Lowndes County was as big as Poland, an act was passed by the Georgia Legislature, appointing a commission to select an appropriate place for a county seat. Franklinville had been its capital, but it was not near enough to the center. As the legend goes, Big John Knight and Big Billy Folsom were appointed.

These two worthies named, one from the pimple hills of the Ockoloccoochee (Little River) and the other from the saw palmetto flats of the Withlacoochee; decided that the most appropriate point was right in the fork of the two rivers. They even had the idea that the river would be navigable that high up, to the Suwannee, all the way to the Gulf of Mexico

So, it came about that where the wine-red waters of the Ockoloccoochee and the black current of the Withlacoochee meet at the end of a long sandbar, and go tumbling and writhing down the long reach of moss grown trees – like two huge serpents struggling for mastery, that the plat of a town was drawn, and it was called after Georgia's great chevalier governor, "Troupville", with a strong accent on the "ville". They had not learned to say "Troupvul" then, and it was such a high sounding title that they lingered lovingly on the pronunciation."

Lowndes County Historical Society
and Museum
Valdosta, Georgia

J. R. Folsom

"The fist and skull fight was popular and was the common way to settle disputes, especially those of a political nature. If the history of Troupville was written, it would contain double the amusing scenes of many towns. Her battles rarely brought much loss of blood but hair oftentimes was freely pulled out."

"Judge Cale presided over court in Troupville on occasion. He was a good judge, but folks who knew him said that he was far from handsome."

M. M. Folsom

"Land of my nativity! Once known, loved evermore! Old Troupville, a town, two rivers, a countryside. No sound of human life awoke those solitudes save the crack of the long cow-whip or the sharper crack of the deer-hunter's rifle. And the wiregrass grew in all its luxuriant beauty, and the fox-squirrel busied himself cutting up the rough pine burrs for the sake of the juicy meat. On every hand rolled away the everlasting hills, resting in majestic monotony beneath skies most wondrously blue. Oh it was God's own land! Great herds of long-horned and wild-looking cattle, troupes of shaggy swine rooting and grunting among the busy hollows; flocks of scrubby sheep, whisking their tails as they crop the juicy herbage in Nature's green pastures."

"Down the River! Oh, come and go,
Where skimming waters flow.
And shadowy lines of towering pines,
Checker the sunlight's golden glow.
Down the River, oh, Lovely land!
Peace still reigns on thy placid strand;
By events uncursed, pure as at first,
Still leaving marks of God's own hand!"

COLLECTION SPOTLIGHT

by
Renate Milner



Lowndes County Historical Society
and Museum
Valdosta, Georgia

1933 Valdosta Wildcat Football Team

Front steps of Williams Street VHS

Ed Willis made us aware of this photograph of the 1933 Valdosta Wildcat Football team recently when he noted that one of the wreaths at "Hambone" Larson's funeral visitation was from the "1933 Wildcat Football Team."

From Albert's earlier writings we know that this was the second team coached at VHS by Robert G. "Bobby" Hooks, b.1907- d.1969. Hooks coached at VHS from 1932 to 1940. This team's 1933 nine game record shows a classic 0 - 0 tie with Thomasville and one loss to Albany 26 - 6. The other seven games were Valdosta wins over Douglas 20 - 3, Bainbridge 34 - 0, Cairo 28 - 0, Tifton 13 - 0, Richmond Academy 32 - 14, Waycross 21 - 0, and Moultrie 28 - 0.

Ed Puckett identified three of the team members. If anyone can help us identify the men in the photograph please contact us at the museum. There were no yearbooks at VHS during the depression years and only a few photographs are available to record this era of Valdosta.

We have many unidentified photographs and portraits here and are pleased to have them. Although we can't identify a person or a place, it still gives researchers historically important information of a time period such as clothing style, hairstyles, or architecture depending on the photograph.

Often collections and albums are thrown out, because descendants have no idea why a particular item was saved, or they have no feeling for an old photograph because they don't know who the person in the photo is and how it relates to their own history. Please take the time to go through your photograph collection and identify the people and places in the photos. It will make them more valuable to future generations.

MEMORIALS

T. Monroe Atkinson

by

Marvin and Robbie Burris

Jane K. Caudle

Donald O. Davis

Mr. and Mrs. Albert S. Pendleton, Jr.

Anita H. Shelton

Marvin and Julie Smith

Susan McKey Thomas

Paul B. Hatcher

by

Tom and Theron Henderson

James H. Rainwater

by

Susan McKey Thomas

Robert 'Bobby' Sasser

by

John N. Peeples

Gladys 'Sis' Stump Tillman

by

Mr. and Mrs. John T. McTier

Dr. and Mrs. William Gabard

David Van Alstyne

by

Anita H. Shelton

*All memorial donations are applied to
the endowment fund.*

We mourn the loss of one of Valdosta's great personalities, our Mayor Jimmy Rainwater. He was a friend of the Historical Society & Museum and often sent or brought visitors by so that they could learn about "Valll-dosta, Georgia." The photo at right shows Mayor Rainwater, flanked by Glenn Gregory and Louie White at the grand re-opening of the museum in January, 1997.



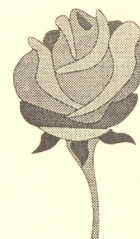
James H. Rainwater – Mayor 1988-2003



In Honor of the
50th Wedding Anniversary
of
Mr. and Mrs. Albert S. Pendleton, Jr.

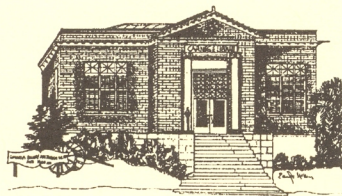
by

Susan McKey Thomas
Mr. & Mrs. George Hart



Pictured on the left:
Mr. & Mrs. Albert S. Pendleton

Reminder to renew your annual membership



Our membership goes from September 1 to August 31. If you have not already done so, please take the opportunity to renew your yearly membership, or become a new member

Lowndes County Historical Society
and Museum
Valdosta, Georgia

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

() Annual Member	\$25
() Student Member (full time)	\$10
() Organizational or Business Member	\$50
() Contributing Member	\$100
() Patron Member	\$250
() Life Member	\$1000

Membership annually.

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(229) 247-4780

E Mail: history@valdostamuseum.org

Web Page: www.valdostamuseum.org

MUSEUM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 6 Saturday 12:00 – 5:00 p.m.

“Winterfest: A Magical Holiday Experience”

“100 Years of Flight in Valdosta”

December 3-24 **Jingle Bells Christmas Tree**

January 4 Sunday 2:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting

March 27 Saturday 6:00 p.m.

27th Annual History 100 Dinner

The Museum will be closed between Christmas and New Year

Lowndes County Historical Society & Museum

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YESTERDAY & TODAY

Newsletter of

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YESTERDAY & TODAY

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