

Lore of Lowndes Azalea Festival 2005

The Lowndes County Historical Society increased its participation in the Azalea Festival this year by preparing *Lore of Lowndes* information for signs placed throughout Drexel Park. Festival chair Joann Griner asked the Society to provide the information. Her committee heard about the lore signs from Alan Davis who operates a food vending enterprise that covers festivals up and down the Eastern United States. For an example, Alan brought photographs of lore signs from a festival in Maryland by the museum.

The committee got middle and high school art departments to prepare the signs. The scripts provided by the LCHS are listed here. They varied from traditional local history to firefighters, speed limits, school days etc.—different topics for different ages and interests. Joann Griner said that interesting comments came from out-of-town visitors that didn't know that Doc Holliday had lived in Valdosta.

Julie Smith installed the traveling exhibits at the LCHS tent. Our space was next to the Azalea Festival information center and the location proved beneficial. Several society members assisted Julie in staffing the tent exhibit.



Joann Griner shows the Doc Holliday *Lore of Lowndes* sign one last time before being stored in downtown Valdosta.

Dinner Time in Troupville

"And then the dinner! Plenty was the first consideration but not the only feature. My mind goes back to the hog loin and turnip greens of yore. ...Why the very corn bread baked in the old Dutch ovens was superior to anything the stove can produce. ...And butter was not oleo-margarine, and biscuits were made of wheat-flour, they were not like those today, one half holes and the other half soda." By J. R. Folsom (b.1831-d.1896). He wrote articles in the 1880's on early Lowndes.

Speeders Beware

1903 brought Valdosta's first paved street—brick on Hill Avenue. The coming of automobiles brought new regulations. In 1910 the speed limit was set at 8 miles per hour, city, and 12 mph outside. In 1911 these were amended to 10 and 15 mph. Also, a law was passed to prohibit repairing a car on the street.

The Patterson Fire Company (The Town was Burning Down)

During the winter of 1869 Valdosta had a devastating fire in the business section that swept up the west side of Patterson Street to Central Avenue. In 1870 three stores on the east side of Patterson burned. These disasters led to a volunteer Patrol Company in 1871 - where a young man stayed on watch every night—until in 1872 a volunteer fire company was organized. It was named in memory of Capt. Patterson who was the first volunteer from Valdosta for the War Between the States.

Chain Stores

S. H. Kress & Company was first to locate a chain "ten cents" store in Valdosta, coming here in 1925. McCrory's soon followed coming in 1927. By 1940 both had enlarged or doubled in size. Reports stated that both proved very popular from the beginning. Now Wal-Mart, Target, Toys-R-Us, Family Dollar and others follow this tradition.

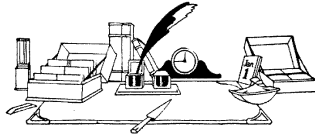
Parent-Teacher Association

The first P.T.A. here was organized in 1914 with one particular vital interest being for better local health conditions - such as screening windows in homes from mosquitoes, typhoid control, etc. One report states "the P.T.A. also brought Choo-Choo the Health Clown for lectures—which in his fascinating way with children, did more to impress the correct health habits of eating, sleeping, etc., upon the children than preaching and teaching by parent and teacher could ever had done."

Two Firsts – One not wanted

Dr. Thomas Ellis was a physician, druggist and devout Methodist minister—practicing in Troupville then moving to Valdosta. He had the first drugstore in town located at the corner of Ashley Street and Central Avenue. Without modern medicines people could die suddenly in those days. Dr. T. W. Ellis died in 1861, and was the first person laid to rest in Sunset Hill Cemetery. His descendants continued to serve the community for years in the

Albert's Desk



by Albert S. Pendleton, Jr.

Albert turned 80 on March 15, 2005. Happy Birthday Albert! When we asked Albert if we could give you a health update he said "okay." Albert is currently bedridden from Parkinson's disease and his humorous comment was to tell you that "it is no love affair."

The photographs on this page were brought to the museum in early March 2005 by Ethel Cooley Hillhouse Padgett and her son Terry Hillhouse. They live in Green Cove Springs and St. Augustine, Florida, respectively. Ethel C. Padgett graduated from Valdosta High School in 1938. Her late sister Robbie Nell Cooley McLaughlin was a classmate of Albert's and graduated in 1942. Albert maintained contact with Robbie all these years. This collection contains two dozen snapshots of Valdosta from about 1925 – all new to us – and five mint condition postcards and an eight page newspaper pictorial from the early 1930s. VSU Archives has already had us scan two of the postcards in preparation for their centennial.

On Albert's birthday we took large scanned copies of each photograph to him as a surprise. He marveled at these one of a kind photos just as we had. But with his dry wit he coyly remarked, "You mean they had these photos all this time and just now brought them to us!"

J. A. Cooley (b.1901 – d.1971), father of Ethel and Robbie, took the photographs when employed at the Strand Theater in the 1920s. We very much appreciate Ethel Padgett for donating these photographs to the museum. She and Robbie understood their value as is evident from a note she wrote in 1985 that was attached to the scrapbook pages. "Robbie and I wish these pictures to be donated to Valdosta Historical Society. They were made by Daddy (J. A. Cooley) many years ago. Some are dated. Post cards belonged to Callie Cooley Bailey."



This snapshot advertises the movie *The Lost World* when playing at the Strand Theater in Valdosta. Note that the sign is attached to the exposed spare tire of an automobile. Dean Poling of the *Valdosta Daily Times* told us that *The Lost World* was probably the best-known horror movie until *King Kong* was made.



This is one of two photos from the scrapbook dated September 18, 1925, that show buildings being demolished for the construction of the Daniel Ashley Hotel on the site. The sign on the building at right announces the relocation of the White House Café to S. Patterson Street. Mrs. Clementine George Haltiwanger was recently in the museum with her daughter and granddaughters making a donation of retail tokens from the J. A. Coury store in Valdosta and quizzing about the White House Café. Her parents, Carlo and Sadie George, were owners of the restaurant.



The Valdes Hotel at the corner of Toombs and Hill. We had always heard about the Valdes fire and reconstruction, but had no idea that the fire caused this amount of damage.



The Strand Theater was located on N. Patterson St. adjacent to First United Methodist Church. Mr. J. A. Cooley took several photos from atop the Strand Theater building.

ministry and in education – the Lelia Ellis School.

Commemorative College Oak

With the demise of the ancient Viking Oak we need to be aware of other mighty or commemorative live oak trees in our area. One such tree grows near the trolley waiting station at the Patterson Street entrance to Valdosta State University. It was planted at the first graduation ever at VSU by the members of the Class of 1914, all three of them. Perhaps the tree should be named the Three Ladies Oak.

Santa Cruz de Cachipile

Lowndes County had a Spanish mission. It was the most northwestward outpost of the Timucuan Indian mission system based in St. Augustine. Named Santa Cruz de Cachipile, the mission existed from c1620 until 1657. Located near Lake Park and Ocean Pond, archaeologists discovered artifacts from the mission when I-75 was being built in 1959. VSU faculty and students continue to excavate the site. For perspective, after the mission, this region continued as wilderness for over 160 years with the first census of our area being in 1820.

Valle d'Aosta

With a policy of protecting Georgia's frontier borders, Gov. George M. Troup was popular in South Georgia. In 1836 Lowndes honored him by naming its new county seat Troupville. In 1860, when our first railroad bypassed Troupville, the town moved to a new site. Wanting to continue recognizing Gov. Troup, the new site was named Valdosta, after one of his plantations in Laurens County, Georgia. Troup had named this plantation after the Italian province, Valle d'Aosta, which he had visited, a scenic region in the Alps bordering France and Switzerland. Although often heard, Valle d'Aosta does not mean 'Vale of Beauty'.

Doc Holliday really was a dentist

Yes, Doc Holliday fought with the Earp brothers in Tombstone, Arizona, at the Gunfight at the OK Corral. Yes, he came from a prominent family and his father was mayor of Valdosta. Moving west so young, speculation existed for years as to whether Doc Holliday, b. 1851, ever did dental work in Valdosta. Then, a few years ago, one record of Doc Holliday's work was found in an official Lowndes County document. It states:

Corinthia Morgan
To Dr. J. H. Holliday

filling 6 teeth	\$18.00
Extracting 3 teeth	\$ 3.00
Received Payment	\$21.00
Oct. 18 th , 1871	J. H. Holliday

We sure wish we had the three extracted teeth at the museum.

Grant Brown, at right, Azalea Festival Chairman for 2006 shows the Lore of Lowndes signs **Commemorative College Oak** about Valdosta State University's commemorative live oak and **Speeders Beware** with information about early automobile regulations and travel in "Turn of the Century" Valdosta.

This year's National History Day theme was



Communicatio

n

Join us as we look at
National History Day
and the competition from a
Parent, and Student perspective
at our

May Meeting

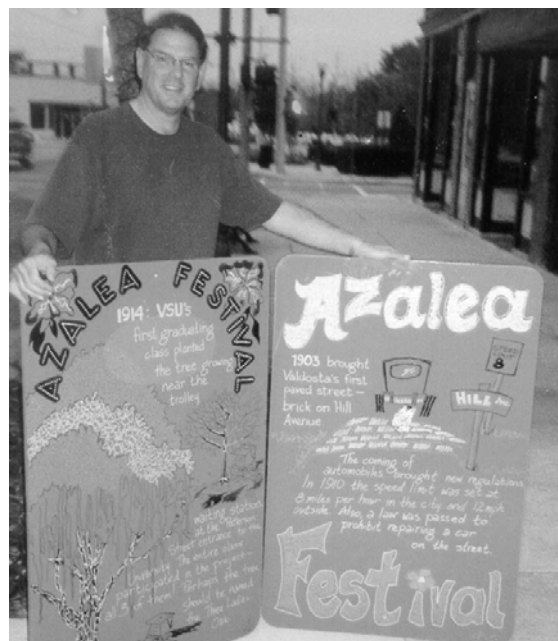


Sunday
May 15, 2005
2:00 p.m.

We will hold a short business meeting
and our election of officers before the presentations.
A reception will follow.

The Lowndes County Historical Society supports
National History Day through the
Susan McKey Thomas Local History Award
which helps participating schools take students to the next
level of competition.

If you would like to know more about National History Day, log on to
www.nationalhistoryday.org. To learn more about the Lowndes
County Historical Society, Susan McKey Thomas Local History



30th Annual History 100 Dinner March 18, 2005

Our 30th Annual History 100 Dinner at the Valdosta County Club was attended by 125 members and guests on Friday, March 18. We had a wonderful time taking the train back in time. Attendees enjoyed a lovely dinner and a presentation full of railroad nostalgia and tunes. Tables were set with model trains, engineer's hats, bandanas, and lanterns. A silent auction was held for the center pieces to benefit the outdoor project.

We honored a number of guests who made contributions to our caboose project—whether through donations of time, money, or resources. We are grateful to these members of our community for seeing the vision we have for the caboose and our outdoor project and working with us to reach our goals.



Cousins Catherine Redles and Lilla Kate Hart waiting at the railroad crossing.



President's Award recipient Ed Willis with wife Jane. Ed was honored for beginning the annual dinner 30 years ago and for bringing the caboose and other innovations to the historical society.



Tomas Moore, Laura Leonard, and Jesse Felma Moore

Keeper of History Recognitions

Laura Leonard

Compiling and preserving the history of
First United Methodist Church, Valdosta

Jesse Felma Moore

As author of
And One More Thing...
Life on a South Georgia Farm
1932 to 1949, A Memoir

Tomas F. Moore

As author of
From Whence We Came
An Historical Overview of the Black Schools
In Lowndes County and Valdosta
From the Reconstruction Period to Desegregation
1867 to 1969

Special Thanks went to:

- The City of Valdosta for donating the caboose.
- Senator Tim Golden and Representative Ron Borders for the state funds appropriated for the caboose restoration.
- The Lowndes County Board of Commissioners for the use of the Carnegie Library and their support of our outdoor project
- Keith Blevins and the South Georgia Media Group and Valdosta Daily Times for the land behind the museum.
- Marshall Conner and Georgia Power Foundation for their support of and donation to the caboose project
- Brooks Welding for moving the caboose and storing it.
- Union Tank Car Company for preparing, priming, and painting the caboose.
- R. Wayne Alexander for laying the tracks.
- Dennis Wetherington for helping us obtain the paint

Each contributed to our project and made our first phase of the caboose restoration a success. We hope to have similar community support as we launch the next phase of our project—the interior.



Members Don and Mary Allen, and Connie Christie. Don and Mary shared some of their railroad collection with us for the PowerPoint presentation. They also brought two model railroad dioramas and an antique train bell, which we used to call everyone to dinner.



Debi and Dick Saeger. Dick received the Harold M. Bennett Historic Preservation Award.



Julie and Marvin Smith in front of enlargements of local depots. Julie created a railroad PowerPoint enjoyed by everyone.



Louie Peebles White, Jane Caudle, and Dale Meehan



Ed Puckett, shown here with Barbara Slocumb and his wife, Pat, was honored for the years he spent volunteering at the museum.



Hazel Lee, Bill Mobley, Robert Savage, and Loyce Turner seem happy with the centerpieces they acquired during our silent auction.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Members,

If you missed our 30th Annual History 100 Dinner on March 18, 2005 at the Valdosta Country Club, you missed a good one! Special thanks to the Annual Dinner Committee: Anita Shelton, Helen Purdy, Connie Christie, Gloria Sorenson, and Martha Gibson for their hard work. Thanks also to Mary McRee, Lamar Cole, and Catherine Redles for their assistance with invitations, proof reading programs, and gathering materials. Thanks also to everyone who helped decorate the Country Club for the evening and helped take everything down when the dinner was over. Thanks also to Donald Davis and Renate Milner for their assistance with the dinner preparations and their help with final table arrangements, and making sure everyone knew where to sit.

We celebrated the railroad in Lowndes County's history, but we also honored those in our community who helped make our first phase of the caboose restoration successful. We were fortunate to have much of the first phase completed through donations. We are not finished however! We are now beginning phase II on the caboose—the interior. We hope to generate the same level of community support that we saw in the restoration of the exterior. Renovating the interior will involve many different tasks. Catherine Redles and I swept and vacuumed, but the walls and surfaces still need a good scouring. The floor will be replaced and the seats upholstered. Much of the plywood in the ceiling has to be replaced due to water damage. Furthermore, the entire caboose must be rewired and the lights replaced. As you see—we still have a great deal to do. If you would like to get involved with this phase or know someone in the auto upholstery business that might help us with the seats or in the flooring business, call me at 244-7480.

In addition to completing the caboose restoration, we need to move forward with the other aspects of our backyard project. Stop by the museum, or look in your newsletter from last March and April. Our yard area will be spectacular, but we must keep our momentum.

We had a great turnout at our tent exhibit at the Azalea Festival on March 12th and 13th. I appreciate the volunteers who helped at our traveling exhibit and answered questions—Mary McRee, Catherine Redles, Marvin Smith, and Lilla Kate Hart.

We are looking forward to our meeting in May. We will look at National History Day from a teacher, parent, and student perspective. The theme for this year's competition was Communication. The students chose topics and had to show how their topic related to communication in history. We are pleased that we are helping send a group of students to the next phase of competition through the Susan McKey Thomas Local History Award. Thanks to Mary McRee, who has been coordinating this effort. Please plan to join us on May 15 at 2:00 p.m. for a look at the National History Day competition and some examples of communication through time.

Join us and get involved! We have so much going on and we need you! These are exciting times for us—Climb aboard and join us as we make the past come alive.

Sincerely,

Julie Smith



The caboose restoration behind the museum is progressing well. The exterior needs only some detail work to be complete. The caboose is a real focal point and is quite a sight especially when coming down River Street through Fairview. Come by the museum and see our progress.

Caboose - Phase II

We are beginning phase II of our Caboose restoration—The Interior. As you can see from the photograph below, we still have a great deal of work to do. The interior has been swept and vacuumed, but the seats, floor, and walls all need repair.



If you would like to make a contribution to this phase, or know someone who might be willing to help us—call Julie Smith at 244-7480 or the Museum at 247-4780.

MEMORIALS



Mr. & Mrs. Clarence E. Baker, Sr.

by
Dr. and Mrs. Howard F. Baker

C. E. 'Casey' Baker, Jr.

by
Dr. and Mrs. Howard Baker

Clinton Baker

by
Dr. and Mrs. Howard F. Baker

Howard F. Baker, Jr.

by
Dr. and Mrs. Howard F. Baker

Margaret V. Baker

by
Dr. and Mrs. Howard F. Baker

Mary Williams Cook

by
Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. Daugharty

Ann Groover Crane

by
Hank and Claire Lee

David Alan Howell

by
Anita Hatcher Shelton
Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Willis

Alice C. 'Wiggie' Langdale

by
Mr. and Mrs. Johnny B. Lastinger

Jane Gates McKey

by
Anita Hatcher Shelton

Mr. & Mrs. J. Gordon Newton

by
Dr. and Mrs. Howard F. Baker

Donald F. Reames

by
Nic Daugharty
Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. Daugharty
Charles W. Stewart, Sr.

by

Dr. and Mrs. Howard F. Baker

Charles W. Stewart, Jr.

by
Dr. and Mrs. Howard F. Baker

Terry A. Stewart

by
Dr. and Mrs. Howard F. Baker

Thomas D. Stewart

by
Dr. and Mrs. Howard F. Baker

George F. Strother, Jr.

by
Dr. and Mrs. Howard F. Baker

Helen Young Bates Wright

by
Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Willis

We appreciate Jeff Hunt, LCHS member, for donating a copy of this photograph of the Valdosta Club at South Georgia Junior College in Douglas to the museum - and with everyone identified! Mr. Hunt said that the picture was probably taken in spring of 1947 and that some from Lowndes County were not on hand for the photograph. The men were just out of high school, but most had participated in WWII. During this period other Valdosta men were attending the private two-year college Emory at Valdosta. Georgia State Womans College did not become coed until the fall of 1950, when it was renamed Valdosta State College.



Left to right - Row 1: Leslie Culpepper, Harold Cohen, L.(Shorty) Hiers, Herman(Hump) Lloyd, H. C. McCormack, Harry Joiner, R. W.(Bob) Wilson, Glenn Ratliffe, Jeff Hunt.

Row 2: James Hull, Billy Coker, Ray Purdy, Bobby Oliver, James Dowling, Jack Jennings.
Row 3: Red(Bunker) Hill, George(Bouncer) Smith, Ben Everitt, James Blankenship, J. C. (Jessie) Hardy.
Row 4(top): Ed Puckett, Lamar (Nick) Crozier, W. G.(Red) Bullock, Julian(Julie) LeFiles, Julian Tucker, Earl O'Neal.

MUSEUM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 25	Sons of Confederate Veterans	7:00 p.m.
May 1	Trustees Meeting	2:00 p.m.
May 15	May Meeting – History Day	2:00 p.m.
May 30	Sons of Confederate Veterans	7:00 p.m.

Lowndes County Historical Society & Museum

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Web page:
<http://www.valdostamuseum.org>

YESTERDAY & TODAY

Newsletter of
Lowndes County Historical Society

President

Julie Barnes Smith

Newsletter Editor

Donald O'Quinn Davis

Editorial Advisor

Albert S. Pendleton, Jr.

Museum Staff

Donald O'Quinn Davis
Administrative Director

Renate K. Milner

Museum Director

YESTERDAY & TODAY

is a trademark of the
Lowndes County Historical Society

Plan to attend the
May Meeting on the 15th.

Return Service Requested

Lowndes County Historical Society
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Valdosta, Georgia 31603-0056

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