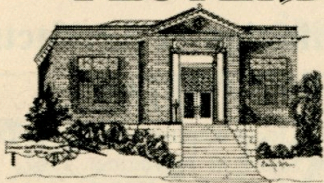


YESTERDAY



&

TODAY

Newsletter of the LOWNDES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Chartered September 1967

305 W. CENTRAL AVENUE
VALDOSTA, GEORGIA 31603

© Lowndes County Historical Society

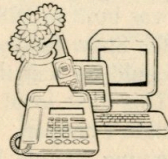
November & December 2006

VOL. XXXV

Special Edition

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Members,



As we approach our 40th Anniversary, I am intrigued by the beginnings of an organization like ours. This commemorative issue of our newsletter looks at where the Lowndes County Historical Society started, where we've been, and where we are going in the future. In fact, I am reminded of my first project with the Museum—the downstairs exhibits—Lowndes County: Past, Present, and Future. The Lowndes County Historical Society was chartered in 1967. They launched the organization in September and we've come so far in the past 40 years.

So many members have come and gone, but many left lasting legacies for us to enjoy and continue. This past year we've said goodbye to our longtime mentor and friend, Albert Pendleton—what a wonderful contribution he made to our community and organization. Also this year we lost our first president, Dr. William Gabard. Dr. Gabard never lost his commitment to our local history and historical society—he continued to make contributions of books, documents, and memorabilia. It gives a special meaning when founding members stay active for so long.

As I work with Boy Scouts at the museum I am reminded of a man I never knew, but wish I had—Tom Shelton. I look at the artifacts behind the museum and the focus of the area where the scouts are working and many of the items were obtained by Mr. Shelton. He was interested in trains and I'm sure he would be thrilled with the caboose.

Over the next year we will continue to celebrate our Historical Society and commemorate those who gave so much to help us come so far. I am inspired by those who came before me and I'm proud to be part of such a wonderful organization.

Sincerely,

Julie Smith



Lowndes County Historical Society home until 1977.

Beginning Our 40th Year

With this Special Edition of the newsletter we introduce the upcoming 40th year of the Lowndes County Historical Society. This issue begins reports on the accomplishments of the society and its members.

One reason for the special edition is an adjustment in our volume number calendar for the newsletter. From its establishment, the fiscal year of the society ended in August, memberships began in September and the newsletter volumes began in November. We have become a much busier place so it was decided that heading into the future having everything possible aligned to the calendar year would be much easier on new administrations.

Susie McKey Thomas was on the Pictorial History Book committee for the Lowndes County Sesquicentennial in 1975. She told me that she asked Arlia Tomlinson to write the following history on the then yet young Lowndes County Historical Society for the publication. It is a good article to begin our review of forty years.

Lowndes County History

Arlia O. Tomlinson

(Excerpt from: *A Pictorial History of Lowndes County Georgia 1825 - 1975*)

The idea of the Lowndes County Historical Society originated in the heart and mind of Mrs. John G. (Vera D.) Hagen. It took form because it was shared. Mrs. Hagen's concept of a society and museum to collect and preserve historical material was shared with her friend, Mrs. John R. (Natalie S.) Williams. Harboring an identical idea, but in a dormant state, Mrs. Williams was receptive and a formation of the concept began. "Our ancestors left us a heritage of a good name in every walk of life", Mrs. Hagen has said.

"Their footfalls may still be heard as we walk our streets, enter institutions of learning or worship in the Churches. It is the duty of the living to see that inspiring records of great men and their deeds shall live. Reverend William Stoughton said in 1669 - "God's Hand is in the making of history and the incidents and elements that serve to form it. For God sifted many nations that He might send choice grain into wilderness."

Mrs. Hagen, Mrs. Williams, Doctor William Gabard and others planned and worked through discussions and meetings. They met with City of Valdosta and Lowndes County officials and the news media. On September 18, 1967, the Lowndes County Historical Society, Inc., was established to acquire, hold, improve, preserve, develop and restore sites, buildings, residences, other structures, artifacts, and other property or items of historical or architectural interest in and around Valdosta, Lowndes County, Georgia, and to increase and diffuse knowledge and a greater appreciation of such sites, structures and

Beginning - Continued on Page 2

IN THE NEWS

FDK THE PARK AVENUE BANK

April 1983

FOCUS

Published by National Foundation for The Park Avenue Bank - Atlanta, Georgia

A Past Worth Preserving

A delightful Service afternoon was held at the historic Carnegie Library building.

The Museum, which is open each Sunday, is located in downtown Atlanta in the old Carnegie Library building.

This is one of the few remaining original Carnegie buildings in the country. Mary Young Manning presided over the combined Focus on a Past Worth Preserving.

A large number of the National Foundation of Atlanta's Focus were present.

Mary Young, a native Virginian who lived in her mother's home for many years, is the former president of the Lowndes County Historical Society.

The group was organized in September 1981 by Natalie Williams and Tom Shelton, with the Museum building serving them. Dr. Crabtree then served as the first president.

There are currently over 100 members, with 40 of them from Lowndes County. There are 100 members in the Lowndes County Historical Society, which is a very good number for a local historical society.

It was the National Foundation which established the Museum, first in the basement of the Carnegie Library where they first met, and then in the new building at the Carnegie Library, which is now the Lowndes County Historical Society.

The group has a very good collection of photographs, maps, and other items, and is a very good source of information on the history of the county.

Mary Young said she was very proud of the "Old Virginia" which she had lived in for many years, and she was very proud of the "Old Virginia" which she had lived in for many years.

"We have the beginning of a good historical society," Mary Young said, "and it is a very good one."

reserving

Lowndes County Historical Society is busy planning several exhibits and activities to mark the 100th anniversary of the Park Avenue Bank in 1983.

The society is planning a series of exhibits, including a display of the original Park Avenue Bank building, which is now the Lowndes County Historical Society.

We're Interested

Focus is interested in hearing about the history of the Park Avenue Bank building, which is now the Lowndes County Historical Society.

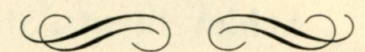
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BANK TALK

The focus is on the history of the Park Avenue Bank building, which is now the Lowndes County Historical Society.

The focus is on the history of the Park Avenue Bank building, which is now the Lowndes County Historical Society.

MEMORIALS



Dr. Joe B. Crane

by

Mr. and Mrs. Bill DeCoudres
Mr. and Mrs. John B. Lastinger
Hank and Claire Lee

Dr. William M. Gabard

by

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Glenn Smith

Pearl DeCoudres Lang

by

Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. Daugharty

Margaret G. Plageman

by

Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. Daugharty

Aubrey Johnston Stump, Jr.

by

Nic Daugharty
Donald O. Davis

Dr. John F. Tomlinson, Jr.

by

Mr. and Mrs. Davis C. Foutz
Jeanne Davis Rountree

Minnie Roberts Williams

by

Preston Cobb
Capt. and Mrs. Warren C. Graham, Jr.
Leona R. Pendleton
Catherine Redles
Julia Bess Scott
Dr. and Mrs. H. Briggs Smith

TO HONOR



Margot Pearlman

On her recent birthday

by

Bradley Soshnik

Lowndes Ancestors

1856-1912

Pounds and Bradford Families

by

Lynn Pippenger
Largo, Florida

Park Avenue Bank celebrated the Historical Society in April 1983. The photograph (left) shows Mary Young Manning, then President. The second photo (right) shows Mary Young Manning, Susie McKey Thomas, Natalie Williams, and Albert Pendleton climbing the stairs of the Carnegie Library.



Member Tom Shelton developed slide shows on various topics for groups. This May 1983 newspaper photograph, above, shows him with students from S. L. Mason.

Beginning - Continued from Page 1

property.

The governing body of the society consists of a board of trustees, the society officers, and all standing committee chairmen. Operating expenses and projects are supported by annual dues. A permanent home for the museum is a major goal. In the beginning, the basement of the old Carnegie Library served as a museum and meeting place. Without charge, 1110 North Patterson Street, in Valdosta, was offered by the Estate of A. Griffin and accepted. The museum houses a varied collection of memorabilia, including a library. It is open to the public most Sundays throughout the year from 3 to 5 P.M.

Noteworthy Accomplishments of the Society:

An annual membership of nearly two hundred members. There were two hundred thirty-eight charter members.

Annual blueprinting of programs. Bicentennial programs are centered on the contributions of various ethnic groups to the history of Lowndes County.

An Old Fashioned Christmas Open House at the museum annually since 1971.

Annual historical tours. Since 1973 one-day tours of sites of historic interest in the area have been coordinated by Tom Shelton.

An autograph tea on November 11, 1973 for Albert S. Pendleton, Jr. and Susan McKey Thomas, society members and co-authors of *In Search of the Hollidays*.

Formation in October 1975 of the Heritage "100" Committee, a group whose purpose is to preserve the cultural heritage and history of Valdosta and Lowndes County. The first meeting was a Candlelight Champagne Dinner November 20, 1975, in celebration of Lowndes County's sesquicentennial.

Dr. Gabard became "temporary organizational chairman"

Although Susie and Albert did not begin the museum's extensive clipping files until about 1970, we are glad they collected earlier articles concerning the society's founding and preserved them for us. Abstracts from a June 1967 article in the *Valdosta Daily Times* tell of the Society's organizational beginnings:

The history conscious Valdostans who are taking steps to form a Lowndes County Historical Society have elected Dr. William Gabard their "temporary organizational chairman." Gabard heads the history department at Valdosta State College.

At the election at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Gabard, named vice chairmen were DAR regent Mrs. John G. Hagen and Mrs. John Williams, president of the Valdosta chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

"I'm quite willing to hide behind the skirts of two fine women," said Gabard, giving them credit for much of the impetus of organizing the society."

Clyde Carter was elected secretary.

"Lowndes County Attorney Arthur McLane is drawing up the petition of a charter of incorporation for the group, which is to be known as the Lowndes County Historical Society," said Dr. Gabard.

"We plan tentatively an organizational meeting on September 14 at the Woman's Building, when we expect to have Miss Carroll Hart of Atlanta, director of the Georgia Archives and History, here to address us."

First Local Acquisition of Artifacts Almost Didn't Happen

Reports indicate that the first local acquisitions for the LCHS came from Mr. and Mrs. Roy Shaw in November 1967. The former Shaw home still stands at 501 East Hill Avenue. The photograph of this home on exhibit at the museum indicates that it was built in 1887. The first Valdosta City Directory in 1904 lists the Shaw family at this address as does the 1990 city directory. It could be that this family was in the house for over 100 years. This first local acquisition of artifacts for the museum almost didn't happen. Mrs. Roy Shaw of Valdosta was on the verge of giving several heirlooms to a museum in another Georgia city when she read that a historical society was being organized here and that a museum planned by the group could house her treasures.

The Shaw's gift included old-fashioned fluting irons, an old lard crock, an antique hand woven coverlet, venerable kitchen scales and an old butter mold. Mrs. Shaw said "This old fluting iron was used by Mama (I mean Mr. Shaw's mama) to iron his sister's dresses at the turn of the century." Mrs. Shaw said that the lard crock tells a tale of days before frozen meats. "They used to fill big old crocks like this with layers of fresh ham and sausage. Then they'd pour hot grease over all the meat in the crock, and you'd have fresh ham and sausage the year around. The boiling grease preserved it." Mrs. Shaw said that earlier in her life she had used the very old butter mold and scales "for years when I lived on the farm."



Mrs. Shaw also told that Mrs. Jane Brooks wove the coverlet in 1861. The coverlet is black and white because Mrs. Brooks sheared her black and white sheep and spun their wool to weave it.

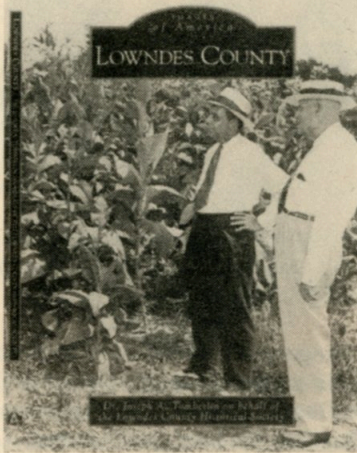
Present at the preliminary organization meeting were Billy Langdale, Arthur McLane, Bill Bassford, Mrs. J.C. McKey, Mrs. Abial Winn, Mrs. Frank S. Harrell, Mrs. Wayne Yeager, Mrs. Clyde Carter and Mr. & Mrs. Hagen.

Also on the planning committee are Miss Margaret Baker, Mrs. Marie G. Crockett, Mrs. John Williams, Mrs. C.H. Griffin, Mayor James Beck, Roy McLane, Tenney Griffin, Carl Minchew, Lake Park Mayor A.R. Zant and Dr. Jesse Parrott of Hahira.

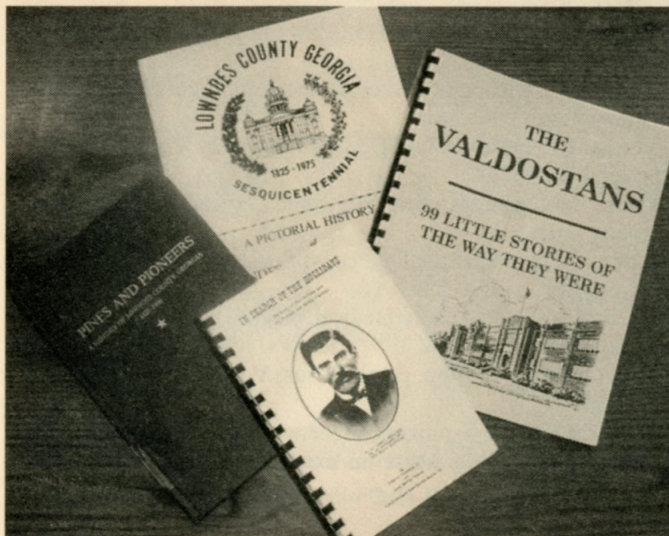
Publications - Continued from Page 4

The society continued to publish with the release of *Way Back When, Volume I*, by Albert S. Pendleton, Jr. in August 1998. *Volume II* followed and *Volume III* was published in 2004. These books contain the articles that Albert submitted to the *Valdosta Times*. The books are usually available at the museum.

The LCHS is excited about its new publication that will arrive for our 40th year in February 2007. The book is *Images of America Lowndes County* by Dr. Joseph A. Tomberlin. Arcadia Publishing states that "The Images of America series celebrates the history of neighborhoods, towns and cities across the country. Using archival photographs, each title presents the distinctive stories from the past that shape the character of the community today."



Because of the kindness and generosity of individuals the LCHS has been granted reprint rights to three publications. Author Jane Twitty Shelton has given reprint rights on her 300 page book *Pines and Pioneers, A History of Lowndes County, Georgia, 1825-1900*. This book was originally published in 1976. The museum was also given reprint permission for *In Search of the Hollidays: The Story of Doc Holliday and His Holliday and McKey Families* by Albert S. Pendleton, Jr. and Susan McKey Thomas. Our most recent permission to reprint came from Botie Chitty who is author/compiler of *The Valdostans, 99 Little Stories of the Way They Were*. Botie Chitty began collecting stories in 1982 and the first printing of his book was in July 1995.



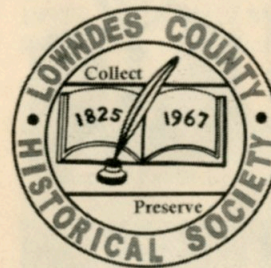
SINCE 1993

THE JINGLE BELL CHRISTMAS TREE

Valdosta renamed Winterfest the Jingle Bell Festival in 2005. We wanted to check back to see when the museum first prepared a Jingle Bells Christmas Tree. Louie White remembered Patsy Giles coming up with the idea when she served on Louie's LCHS Trustee Executive Committee, but neither could pinpoint the initial year. Patsy remembered Louie purchasing window display Christmas bells from C. C. Varnedoe for their historic effect on the tree. In searching through Albert's newsletters we find this mention in the December 1993 issue. "The reason we are writing about Pierpont again (briefly) is because this year at the museum we will have a 'Jingle Bells' tree in honor of the author. The Christmas tree is donated by Hambrick Tree farm and decorated with bells brought in by you and with some bells we already have, all thanks to Patsy Giles."



Standing beside the 2005 Jingle Bell tree is Patsy Giles with her Valdosta grandchildren Savannah-Jane and Thomason Gilchrist



In upcoming issues:

1977
The 10th Anniversary
and
The Big Move
Into the Carnegie!

Also coming –
In 1989

Tourism Funding Brought Daily Opening
And Much More!

20th Anniversary Recognized Achievements, Stated Goals

At the thirteenth Heritage (History) 100 Dinner, in 1988, the program noted that the Society had recently celebrated its twentieth birthday. At this time the Society chose to honor William M. Gabard (1967-68), Mr. Tom D. Shelton (1968-70), Dr. Earl D. Hargett (1970-71), Mrs. John G. Hagen (1971-73), Mr. Joe G. Stevens (1973-74), Dr. Joseph A. Durrenberger (1974-75), Mr. Albert S. Pendleton (1975-76), Mrs. John Williams (1976-79), Mr. Mike J. Paine (1979-81), Ms. Mary Young Boatenreiter (1981-83), Mrs. Lilla Kate Hart (1983-85), Dr. Joseph A. Tomberlin (1985-87), and who as the presidents of the organization contributed much to its success.

The program stated that the Society has plans to: 1. Establish an endowment fund for its future financial security; 2. Solve the moisture problem in the basement of the Museum; 3. Expand the society's Museum holdings; and 4. Find new ways to make the community more conscious of its rich heritage.

It is good to note that through continued efforts these four objectives were achieved.



Joseph A. Tomberlin and Tom D. Shelton

Governor's Proclamation

Governor Joe Frank Harris issued a proclamation in recognition of the 20th Anniversary of the LCHS being presented at the Heritage (History) 100 Dinner on March 26, 1987. The proclamation ending states, THEREFORE:

I, Joe Frank Harris, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby recognize the LOWNDES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY for their dedication and commitment to the preservation of local history, and do further commend its members for the role they play in education of others through the Lowndes County Historical Society.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed. This 25th day of March 1987.

PUBLICATIONS THROUGH THE YEARS



The Lowndes County Historical Society has produced several publications through the years, and been given permission to reprint others. Albert Pendleton began the newsletter in November 1971. The newsletter will be emphasized later in our 40th year.

The first 'book' publication with considerable input from the LCHS was *A Pictorial History of Lowndes County, Georgia 1825-1975*. This book was completed in May 1976 as an official commemoration of the sesquicentennial of the establishment of Lowndes County. It was a result of the formation of the Heritage 100 Committee that met in November 1975 in celebration of this sesquicentennial. The specific committee for this book was comprised of Tom Shelton, Susan McKey Thomas, Natalie S. Williams, Fredeva Ogletree, Duane Pitts, Davy Shelton and Jan Shelton Danis. The LCHS was granted the right to sell the copies that remained after the celebration. Currently about twenty copies remain available for purchase.

The society published *The Piney Woods Journal of History*, Vol. I, in 1989-1990 and Vol. II in 1990-1991, this second volume was not released until 1993 because of financial constraints. Dr. Joseph Tomberlin was editor of these academic journals. A grant from First Union Bank covered printing costs for Volume II. The journals were distributed to Society members without charge, with the remainder available for sale to the public. Volume I is sold out, and only 2 or 3 copies of Volume II remain available for purchase.

Volume II has a very good article by Edward T. Hart about the Society titled *The Lowndes County Historical Society, 1967-1992*. Edward Hart closes his article with a quotation from a November 1991 interview with Dr. Bill Gabard, "History has to include everyone."

Publications chairman J. Edward Willis edited the popular *Valdosta Visions*, *Yesteryears* pictorial calendars in 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995 and 1996. The last two calendar issues became significant tributes to our World War II soldiers. These publications were underwritten through the financial support of the Independent Insurance Agents of Lowndes County. We continue to have these historic calendars available, however 1995 is in short supply.

Christmas Ornament Decorated our 30th Anniversary

At the urging of LCHS president Louie White, the Historical Museum was featured on the fifth ornament produced by Valdosta Mainstreet for Christmas in 1997. The ornament honoring the Lowndes County Historical Society was announced in September 1997 at the 30th anniversary celebration of the society.



The ornament is gold colored featuring a burgundy etching of the museum, with the words "Preserving the Past" inscribed on the front. The museum was built in 1913 and originally housed the Carnegie Library. About twelve of these ornaments remain available for purchase.

It can be said that the Carnegie Library was a present for Valdosta. In 1911 and 1912 the City of Valdosta had pledged fifty thousand dollars and the donation of land to get the college in operation. With so much local money allocated to the college, the grant from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation made the library possible. So in this holiday season please note that the City of Valdosta gave, and then it received, and the ornament of the LCHS Museum/Carnegie Library contains this story of giving and then receiving.

GRAND RE-OPENING BEGAN 30TH YEAR

In January of 1997 the Lowndes County Historical Society began celebrating its 30th anniversary with a grand reopening of its museum. The reopening referred to the building exterior and downstairs being restored and after the restoration, the completion of the downstairs exhibit. After four years of hard work and the reopening, the downstairs exhibit was recognized as the top "Permanent Exhibition of the Year" for 1997 by the Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries (GAMG). The *Valdosta Times* reported that success of the project was due to the efforts of President Louie White, First Vice President and architect, Glenn Gregory; that the brainchild of the renovation was Historical Society Trustee Harold Bennett and the exhibit was designed by Museum Curator, Julie B. Smith. Through much research and planning, Susie McKey Thomas and the late Edith Roberts helped block out the first planning stages. Fred Sanchez, facilitator, Allen Morgan, administrator, Albert Pendleton, archivist and historian, Leona Pendleton, Morris Smith, Catherine Redles, Anita Shelton, Patsy Giles and Donald Davis assisted in research and development.



Ribbon cutting ceremony with Glenn Gregory, Inez Pendleton, Louie White, Rita Suiter, and Jimmy Rainwater.

The new downstairs exhibit was titled "Lowndes County Past, Present and Future." The exhibit comprised 47 panels, eight free standing display cases and more than 300 photographs. Besides the top award from GAMG the society also received in 1997 a Certificate of Merit from The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation for accomplishments at the museum.



Guests arriving to celebrate the Gala Reopening in January 1997.

Trustee's Award

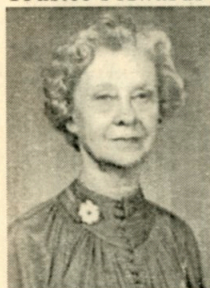
The Trustees Award was conceived in 1997 by Donald Davis when he served on the Executive Committee during the presidency of Louie Peeples White. It was the thirtieth anniversary of the society and deemed an appropriate time to seek the names of those that should be recognized and do so. The Trustees Award is given in sincere appreciation "for outstanding participation in the ongoing mission of the Society and its Museum in Valdosta."

A 30th Anniversary is celebrated with pearls. Each agenda item at the LCHS 30th function in September 1997 was given a "pearl" reference. Louie wrote that the presentation of the Trustees Awards created "The Order of the Rare Black Pearl."

It was decided that the three founders should stand alone as the first recipients, their Trustees Awards being presented at the March 20, 1997 society meeting. Others Trustees Awards were presented September 18, 1997 and on May 27, 1999.

Photographs from the 1997 program are included here:

Trustee's Awards Presented - March 20, 1997



Vera Hagan



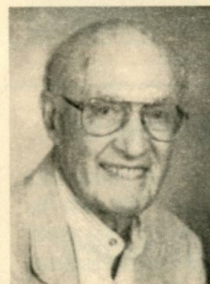
Natalie Williams



Dr. William Gabard

- Mrs. Vera D. Hagen, posthumous, Founding Member, President, 1971-72
- Mrs. Natalie S. Williams, posthumous, Founding Member, President, 1976-79
- Dr. William M. Gabard, Founding Member, First President, 1967-71

Trustee's Awards Presented - September 18, 1997



Harold Bennett



LaForrest S. Eberhardt



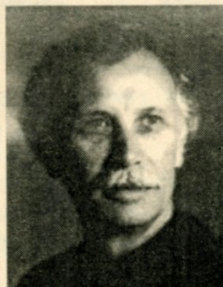
J. Glenn Gregory



Mr. & Mrs. Langdale



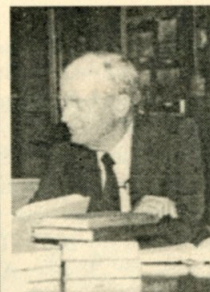
Hyta Mederer



Albert Pendleton



Edith Roberts



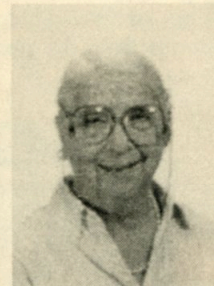
Tom Shelton



Billie Hamm Smith



Susie Thomas



Louie White

- Mr. Harold M. Bennett, Chairman of Museum Renovation
- Mrs. LaForrest Smith Eberhardt, posthumous, Generous Donor Enabling the Society to proceed with Museum Renovation
- Mr. J. Glenn Gregory, Jr., Architect of Museum Renovation
- Mr. and Mrs. Harley Langdale, Jr., Generous Donors allowing the Society to proceed with Museum Renovation
- Mrs. Hyta Plowden Mederer, posthumous, Generous Donor Enabling the Society to consider Museum expansion.
- Mr. Albert S. Pendleton, Jr., Editor of Newsletter for 25 years, President, 1972-73
- Miss Edith Converse Roberts, posthumous, Dedicated Society Volunteer for many years.
- Mr. Tom Davis Shelton, posthumous, President, 1968-70
- Mrs. Billie Ham Smith, posthumous, Generous Donor Enabling the Society to consider Museum Expansion
- Mrs. Susan McKey Thomas, Dedicated Society Volunteer for many years
- Mrs. Louie Peeples White' President, 1991-99

Trustee's Awards Presented - May 27, 1999

- Jane Kennon Caudle, Dedicated Society Volunteer for many years
- Dr. Leonard Rudolph Howell, Providing Endowment for Library and Education
- Mary Young Roberts Oliver, Dedicated Society Volunteer for many years
- Leona Redles Pendleton, Dedicated Society Volunteer for many years
- Catherine Liming Redles, Dedicated Society Volunteer for many years
- Anita Hatcher Shelton, Dedicated Society Volunteer and Donor for many years.
- Gloria Dalton Sorenson, Dedicated Society Volunteer for many years
- Hugh Leroy Vallotton, posthumous, Vallotton Genealogical Library
- Dr. John Greene Youmans, Generous Donor Enabling the Society to consider Museum Expansion.

MUSEUM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 23 – January 2 Museum closed for Christmas Holidays

January 29 Son's of Confederate Veterans

February 11 Georgia Day Meeting 2:00 PM

February 19 Expected publication date of
Images of America - Lowndes County
by Joseph A. Tomberlin

February 26 Son's of Confederate Veterans

Lowndes County Historical Society & Museum

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Fax: (229) 247-2840
E-mail: history@valdostamuseum.org
Web page:
<http://www.valdostamuseum.org>

YESTERDAY & TODAY

Newsletter of
Lowndes County Historical Society

President

Julie Barnes Smith

Newsletter Editor

Donald O'Quinn Davis

Kid's Page Editor

Andrew Smith
with Julie Barnes Smith

Museum Staff

Donald O'Quinn Davis
Administrative Director

Renate K. Milner
Museum Director

YESTERDAY & TODAY

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