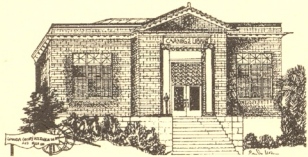


# YESTERDAY & TODAY



## Newsletter of the LOWNDES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Chartered September 1967

305 W. CENTRAL AVENUE  
VALDOSTA, GEORGIA 31603

© Lowndes County Historical Society

January & February 2008

VOL. XXXVII

NO. 1 & 2

### Book Signing Event Highlights Black History Month

The first Valdosta book signing for *Halfway Home From Kinderlou* occurred Saturday, February 23, at the Lowndes County Historical Museum. The event was well attended, had a festive atmosphere and was a mini-reunion for several present. Many also took time to tour the museum.

James Edward Alexander made several trips to the museum researching details for his book. The book is a collection of stories about his happy childhood in Valdosta in the 1930s and 1940s. His parents lived on West Hill Avenue and his grandparents lived in the Ousley community. Thus, when he passed by the impressive oaks at Kinderlou he was always halfway home to his parents or, in the other direction, to his grandparents.

It is good that James Edward Alexander has written a book that tells of life in Valdosta during that time. It is an important record, just as is Jesse Felma Moore's recent book, *And One More Thing... Life on a South Georgia Farm 1932 to 1949*.

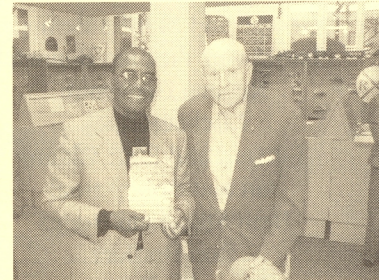
The Prologue of James Edward Alexander's book is printed below.

This is America. This is my home. It is unimaginable that I could have had such an exciting and loving childhood anywhere but in this land, where we truly believe that God shed his light on thee. No other nation in history has equaled the breadth of America's offering to all of its citizens of opportunities for the pursuit of happiness.

My childhood as a colored boy in South Georgia was influenced by a socioeconomic and political system that favored one class of citizens over their neighbors and often subjected the disfavored to ridicule, derision, danger, and, most scathing to human dignity, insignificance. This is not a new human pattern. Wherever people gather, they eventually structure hierarchies and sort themselves into classes, based on preferences for, or the absence of, some human traits, human characteristics, religious philosophies, or plurality. Yet despite this human tendency, there also is in most of us an inherent probity that yearns to emerge and flourish like a flower.

In our racially integrated neighborhood in Valdosta, colored and white families structured arrangements for harmony and independence. We often shared food and slept on the same pallet. Children were punished by parents of both races, and we children also sought out the same adults for comfort. Both races shared home remedies, and we sat at the bedsides of the sick and prayed together. In the end we gathered at the gravesides.

This too was my America. These are our stories.



*Left:* James Edward Alexander displayed a golfing trophy that was given to him many years ago which the late Maxwell Oliver won in 1925 at Glen Arvin Country Club in Thomasville. A former Valdosta mayor, Oliver was a friend and mentor to Alexander. *Right:* James Edward Alexander presented Harley Langdale, Jr. a copy of his 'Kinderlou' book in appreciation of his thoughtfulness to the Valdosta community.



*Top:* 1951 Dasher High School classmates: seated, Juanita Miller and faculty member Mildred Hunter; standing, Franklin Williams, Rhudene Morgan, Ralph Council, Benjamin Bullard, J. E. Alexander, Albert McCloud and Arvetta Bryant Hall. And below more classmates, Pocahontas Collins, Montez Daniels, J.E. Alexander, Gloria Cain Bullard and Benjamin Bullard.



## Memberships for 2008

Don and Mary Allen  
 Jennifer and Bill Altman  
 John and Sandra Anderson  
 Edwin and Nancy Avera  
 Chet and Myrna Ballard  
 Mr. and Mrs. James Beck  
 George and Martha Bennett  
 Harold and Virginia Bennett\*  
 Regena Benvenuti  
 Michael Black  
 Edward and Elsie Blaum  
 Jan and Bobby Boal  
 Beth Stanaland Boggs  
 Ron Borders  
 James W. Brantley  
 Charles E. Bryan  
 John and Lynda Buckholts  
 Gary and Tracy Cannon  
 Allen and Ginny Catoe  
 Jane Kennon Caudle  
 Botie Chitty\*  
 Joe Clary  
 Geraldine McLeod Clifton  
 Brian and Laurie Colbert  
 Jeanette T. Cole  
 Mr. and Mrs. H. Lamar Cole  
 Stephen and Kay Coleman  
 Wade and Gerri Coleman  
 George L. Converse, Jr.  
 Rilla Royal S. Cooper  
 Pauline Copeland  
 Dr. and Mrs. Frank Corker  
 Byron and Catherine Courson  
 Stanley and Sue Cox  
 Mr. and Mrs. Ed Crane  
 Sharon Cribbs  
 Eugenia Crosby  
 Marion Anice Cross  
 Margaret Culbreth  
 Jan Shelton Danis  
 Joe and Audrey Dasher  
 Raymond and Anne Dasher  
 Margie Dasher  
 Lynnel Dasher  
 Robert and Bette Jean Daugharty  
 Robert T. Daugharty, Jr.  
 Barneta O. Davis  
 Donald O. Davis  
 Shelly Decker  
 Fred and Jean Deloach  
 John M. Deming, III\*  
 Nancy Dewar  
 Mike and Martha Dover

Virginia C. Drumheller  
 Mr. and Mrs. Mike Drumheller, Jr.  
 Vera Drynan  
 Dorothy H. Eager  
 H.B. Edwards  
 John Kent Edwards, Sr.  
 Mr. Jack Estes  
 Mildred Sheffield Evans  
 Dr. Juanita Felder  
 Jane Ferrell  
 Mrs. Joe Fisher  
 Curtis G. Fowler  
 Patricia Williams Futch  
 Lougenia Gillis Gabard  
 Mr. and Mrs. David Gallahan  
 Dr. George R. Gaumond  
 Melissa Geier  
 Martha Norwood Gibson  
 Patsy T. Giles  
 J. O'Neal and Faye Grant  
 Parker and Lucy Greene  
 Joseph A. Greer  
 Mrs. Mack V. Greer, Sr.  
 Sam Greneker  
 Joanne W. Griner  
 Dr. E. Ray Griner  
 Ann Moore Gunter  
 Robert M. Hall  
 Joe Hall  
 Mrs. Walter N. Hall, Sr.  
 Virginia S. Harrell  
 George and Mary Harrington  
 Owen and Nelda Harris  
 George and Lilla Kate Hart  
 Redden and Judy Hart  
 Edward Hart  
 Dr. George Hart  
 William R. 'Bill' Hart  
 Paul B. Hatcher, Jr.  
 Emory Hatcher  
 Thomas R. Henderson\*  
 Beulah Hennly  
 Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Herndon, Jr.  
 Mike Hill  
 David H. Hobbs  
 Eugenia G. Hobbs  
 Betty H. Holcombe  
 Bruce Hornbuckle  
 Barbara Hornbuckle  
 Riley and Jenny B. Howard  
 Eleanor M. Howard  
 Dr. and Mrs. Leonard Howell, Jr.

Leona Strickland Hudson  
 Mildred Hunter  
 Dr. William & Ginny Bridges Ireland  
 Dr. Ben Jenkins\*  
 Jep Johnson  
 Theodora E. Maxwell Johnson, Ph. D  
 Buford Joiner  
 James C. Jones, Jr.  
 Ann Kasun  
 Charles and Nina King  
 Ken Klanicki  
 Ann Lackey  
 Dr. and Mrs. John E. Lancaster  
 Dr. Noah N. Langdale, Jr.\*\*  
 Mr. and Mrs. Harley Langdale, Jr.\*  
 W. Sidney Lanier  
 Bill Lastinger  
 Laura Leonard  
 Esther Paine Lifsey  
 Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Liles  
 Patricia Griffin Lindenmeyer  
 Albert and Jane Little  
 Verna Lord  
 Euna H. Love  
 Julie Lumsden  
 Drs. Dennis and Patricia Marks  
 Dr. Bill and Zan Martin  
 Mr. and Mrs. Lindsay Mason  
 Lilla 'Sis' West May\*  
 Mr. and Mrs. Searcy McClure, Jr.  
 Alex B. McFadden  
 Tyson and Mary Sue McLane  
 Carol McLeod  
 W. Paul and Brinkley McNeal  
 Mary W. McRee\*  
 Mr. and Mrs. John T. McTier  
 Francis Barfield Mercer  
 Maxwell W. Miller  
 Charles Mixson Miller  
 Jo Minchew  
 William Mobley  
 Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Mooney, Jr.  
 Marjorie W. Moran  
 Clay Moseley  
 Mark Mullis  
 Dorothy E. Neisen  
 Walter and Liza Newsom  
 Betty Nichols  
 Margaret M. Nisbet\*  
 W. G. 'Kip' Nunn, III  
 Marjorie Doreen Officer  
 Dr. and Mrs. William Oliver  
 Catharine M. Oliver



Dorothy Dalton Paine  
Col. and Mrs. Clarence Parker  
Todd Parramore  
Dorothy C. Pearlman\*  
Dr. & Mrs. Lamar Pearson  
Helen Pendleton  
Leona R. Pendleton  
Laura C. Perlman  
James J. Perryman  
Barry Phillips  
Merita D. Powell  
Pat and Ed Puckett  
Cora L. Pugh  
William and Helen Purdy  
Anita Reames\*  
Dr. Barney and Pam Rickman  
Nell P. Roquemore  
Jeanne Davis Rountree  
Dr. Roscoe Rouse  
Julia Bess Scott  
Mable Scruggs  
Clare Peeples Sheffield  
Richard W. Shelton  
T. Davy Shelton  
Anita H. Shelton\*  
Lynn Shelton  
Jane T. Shelton  
John P. Sinnott  
Clint and Barbara Slocumb, Jr.  
Ben and Carol Smith  
Dr. Marvin and Julie Smith  
Morris Smith  
Carl Smith  
Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Smith  
Mitchell Smith  
Tony Smith\*  
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Smith, Jr.  
Gloria Dalton Sorenson  
Ann G. Stewart  
Mrs. Matt Stewart\*  
Mrs. Charles W. Stewart, Jr.  
Wesley and Julie Street  
Dr. Joe and Matilda Stubbs  
Betty Sullivan  
Jan Sumner  
John and Kate Swiderski  
Susan McKey Thomas  
Georgia Smith Thomson  
Floyce Vickers Tillman  
Dr. Joseph A. Tomberlin  
Lucy Tomberlin  
Loyce Turner\*  
Robert Rouse Vallotton, II  
George W. Varn, Jr.

**We appreciate your continued support and interest in the important role the Lowndes County Historical Society plays in keeping our history and heritage available. Our goal is to Protect, Preserve, and Maintain this heritage so that it will be a resource for future generations.**



## Membership Opportunities

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Student</b>	<b>\$10</b>	<b>Name:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Individual</b>	<b>\$25</b>	<b>Address:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Family</b>	<b>\$30</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Organization/Business</b>	<b>\$50</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Contributing</b>	<b>\$100</b>	<b>Phone:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Patron</b>	<b>\$250</b>	<b>E-Mail:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Life</b>	<b>\$1000</b>	

I would like to contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Museum Operating Fund to assist with building and collections maintenance.

I would like to contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Endowment Fund to provide a stable future for the Lowndes County Historical Society.

Thank you for your annual Membership dues payable to:

**LOWNDES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**P.O. Box 56**

**VALDOSTA, GA 31603-0056**

Gordon Varnedoe  
Mr. and Mrs. Fred H. Walker  
Dorothy Noell Walker  
David and Sharon Waller  
Steve Wansley  
Donnie Warren  
Marjorie Noell West  
Horace R. West  
Hugh H. and Jerry R. West  
Mr. and Mrs. John Wiggins  
Fred and Vicki Wilkinson  
Leighton Wilkerson  
J. Edward Willis  
Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Woodward  
Mary Jane Yorke  
Gretchen McCoy Young

\* Life Member  
\*\* Dr. Noah Langdale, a longtime member of the LCHS and former History 100 Dinner speaker, died February 23, 2008.

## MEMORIALS

**Robert Banks Anderson, Jr.**  
by

Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Willis

**John Remer Hart**

by

Judge and Mrs. H. Arthur McLane  
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Pearlman  
Helen F. Pendleton

**Dr. Noah N. Langdale, Jr**

by

Susan McKey Thomas

**Jerry Warren Meadows, Jr.**

by

Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. Daugharty

**Irene Lott Southwell**

by

Anita Hatcher Shelton





First in line, Artie Marshall purchases a copy from Toian Alexander.



Sis West May, Mildred Hunter and Ruth Council had their own party going for a short while at the book signing.



Both authors, James Edward Alexander [JEA] and Morris Smith enjoy discussion.



Brinkley and Paul McNeal speak with JEA. Brinkley bought an additional book for a group of teenage girls she mentors.



Odessa A. Laury, Mary Kate Colson and Dorothy Sharpe. Odessa is JEA's sister.



David Miller, Catherine Denard, Ethel Love and Elizabeth Miller pose when entering the downstairs exhibit for the reception.



Jenny Beck Howard and her sister and brother-in-law, Betty Gene and Gary Birdwell.



Maceo and Cherry Horne told additional information in relation to items on exhibit.



Jacqueline Head, Amitre Smith, Amina Smith and Amani Smith.



Luther Williams, Tony Williams and Sallie Williams toured the museum while attending the book signing.



Jamila Sharpe, Genea Sharpe, Fannie O'Neal, Jazmine Kier and Genesis Sharpe. Several of the youth attending enjoyed the scavenger hunts and Local Black History Month Quiz.



Frank Williams pointed out Cut Edward's photograph in the Black History Month exhibit.





Mary Orr and Dr. Joseph E. Brown. Joseph Brown is VSU retired Dean of Students and recently elected to the Valdosta Board of Education.



Betty Lightsey and Geraldine Clifton. Betty's son Ed Lightsey is a writer for *Georgia Trend* magazine. Geraldine is president of Lake Park Area Historical Society.



Catherine and Coriel Long, longtime friends of JEA.



Bootsie Smotherman, Martha Norwood and Lonie Pendleton. Bootsie's late brother-in-law former mayor Maxwell Oliver was mentor and friend to JEA in years past.



Valerie Ford, Evelyn Ford, Carole House and Ruhdene Morgan gathered to pose for this photograph.



Fred Robinson and George Stripling spoke with JEA about the book and caught up on personal activities.

## Halfway Home From Kinderlou

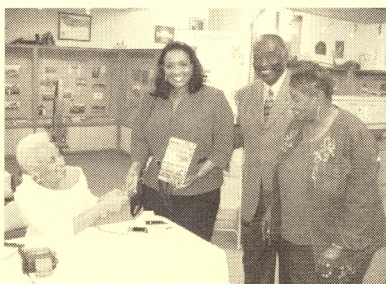
These photographs on pages four and five picture several of those attending the book signing event. We have a limited number of copies of the book for sale at the museum. The price is \$24 hard bound; \$18 soft bound; \$4.60 shipping. Tax is included in the price.



Lee Henderson, radio newsman and personality, and Frank Jenner, City of Valdosta arborist.



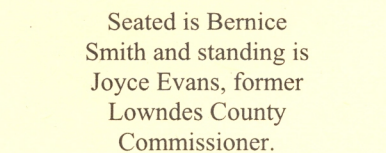
Joe and Geneva Rivers. Joe Rivers found information about himself in the exhibits concerning sports and the military.



Toian Alexander, Yvette Council Waters, Ralph and Ruth Council enjoyed a moment to visit.



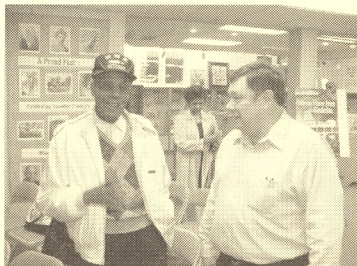
Barbara James and Anita Shelton listen to JEA explain concepts that led to his writing the book.



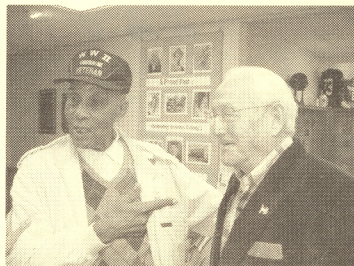
Seated is Bernice Smith and standing is Joyce Evans, former Lowndes County Commissioner.







Brown and Burrell



Brown and McGowan

In conversation at the book signing, Arthur Brown told Steve Burrell that in World War II he served onboard the submarine USS Narwhal. The USS Narwhal was used continuously for special missions: mainly the resupply or evacuation of Phillipine guerillas. It was also successful in rescuing a number of women and children in October 1944. Ed Willis included Arthur Brown in the society's 1996 WWII pictorial calendar. Arthur Brown had recently made the Honor Flight to visit the WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C. Later during the book signing Rev. John McGowan entered and he and Arthur Brown gladly greeted each other and told of Rev. McGowan being Arthur's guardian on the trip to Washington. Valdosta was the first city in Georgia to make Honor Flights to the memorial.



McRee and Lastinger



Courson and Swiderski

### Kinderlou Descendants

In the photo above left are Mary McRee and Bill Lastinger, and at right are Katie Courson and her grandmother Kate Culpepper Swiderski. Mary McRee and Kate Swiderski's children and grandchildren are Kinderlou descendants from the McRee family in the late 1800s and early 1900s.



Giles and Langdale



Robertses and Zipperer

### Kinderlou Residents

At left, Flower ladies Patsy Giles and Eileen Langdale, Kinderlou resident, admire the bounty of roses that Sue Cox sent over from Covington's for the book signing. At right are Suzanne and Frank Roberts, Kinderlou residents, and Sherry Zipperer. Frank Roberts is the son of the late Willie Fred Roberts, story telling legend from Echols County. Bill Lastinger resides at Kinderlou Forest.

## ACTIVITIES AND FUTURE EVENTS

### Apparel Through the Ages

We will soon offer our first, of many, special displays. These displays will highlight the unique and special items stored at the museum. This event will begin in early April. It will offer a showing of clothes, uniforms, hats, quilts, and blankets dating as far back as the 1830's. While this display is open to the public, your Historical Society membership allows you a behind the scenes tour. Watch for an announcement plan on reserving your place in line.

Our web site is operational. You can keep up with all of our programs and happenings by logging onto [valdostamuseum.com](http://valdostamuseum.com). Our Email address is [history@valdostamuseum.com](mailto:history@valdostamuseum.com).

Your ideas and suggestions on improving our museum are welcome

Did you know that you can donate your car to the museum? So rather than endure the pain and agony of trying to trade it in to a dealer, donate it to the museum. You get a full tax deduction and we get the money. We do all of the paperwork and a tow truck will even come to your house and pick it up. We can also accept boats, RV's, motorcycles, airplanes or real estate. We are in partnership with the nation's most reputable donation organization, so the process is simple and easy to do.

Steve Burrell, Executive Director

James Edward Alexander dedicated the book *Halfway Home From Kinderlou* to his six grandchildren. The dedication reads:

### Your Blessings

You are an American.

In your first breath you filled your nostrils with the air of freedom – you were born an American citizen.

Your aspirations will be the product of your imagination. Your achievements will be the product of your energy and zeal. You will control both. Therefore, either fault or praise for the quality of your life hovers at your doorstep. Strive to promote serenity in your life. Treat everyone you meet as your equal, no more or less worthy of your respect. Those acquaintances who share your values will meld into your community of friends. Those who don't will eventually do both of you a favor and take their leave.

Take note of history, but never let the past fix the boundary of your dreams.

James Edward Alexander, Grandfather



# Georgia Day Activities

On Sunday February 10, the Lowndes County Historical Society and the General James Jackson Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, held combined Georgia Day activities. Society president Patsy Giles conducted a business meeting in the upper gallery beginning at 1:30. During this time and after in the lower gallery the DAR members welcomed guests arriving to hear the speaker and to participate in other planned activities.

Before the speaker and later during the reception the DAR ran a video on Meadow Garden. Meadow Garden is owned and operated by the Georgia State Society, Daughters of the American Revolution. It is the historic farm home of George Walton, who at age 26, was the youngest signer of the Declaration of Independence. The home is located Augusta and is one of Georgia's oldest dwellings.

For their conservation project the DAR chapter with the Valdosta Tree Commission, donated an American Elm which was planted on the museum rear grounds. The Dutch elm disease almost entirely decimated the American elm in our country four decades ago. From the few trees that survived, a Georgian has been the most active grower in cultivating a new supply of elms that are disease resistant.

The speaker for the meeting was Lanier County native Mark Corbitt, MD. Since childhood Dr. Corbitt has collected and studied Native American artifacts of South Georgia and beyond. People were fascinated with his extensive collection and to learn of the practical application for the artifacts to daily life. One item was a rock structure that had been prepared and shaped so when blown it made a sound like an elephant. He explained that this item was very old and was used when hunting to attract the extinct American mastodon..



*Left:* Mary McRee introduces Dr. Mark Corbitt.

*Photos at right top to bottom:*

1. Jennifer Altman, Jerre West, Patsy Giles, Frank Jenner and Lilla Kate Hart plant the American Elm.
2. Joyce Baker and Kay Jennett prepare table.
3. Pam Officer, Doreen Officer, Geraldine Clifton and Delores Parrish visit.
4. Frank Jenner, Mark Corbitt and Catherine Redles with artifacts.