

NEWS LETTER

The Lowndes County Historical Society, 1110 North Patterson St., Valdosta, Georgia.
November 15, 1971

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Our first "Open Sunday" at the Museum was held November 7th with twelve interested visitors. Lonie and I sat down for coffee and a visit with two sisters, Mrs. Rachael (Auburn) Parrish and Mrs. Cecelia Lawson. They have a picture of Confederate veterans (Mahira) which includes their father, Lawrence Folsom Lawson, and have offered the Society a copy. Some time soon Rachael will loan us a gramophone and records. Cecelia and Rachael were interested to find their ancestors recorded in one of the Huxford volumes, of which we have six. These books cover the early families of South Georgia. We had about six young people come and I believe they really enjoyed their visit. Go yourselves as members and help talk to these people and tell them about our exhibits and history. People are really interested, and they enjoy our microfilm reader, though we have no film of our own. We borrow old county and state records on film. We are ordering film and will have some of our own very soon.

Mrs. Margaret Graham, who gave our first family history at a meeting, said she had to go to Dr. Huxford's books for early Roberts family information. Mrs. Graham's talk, about the Roberts' who live in a house older than Valdosta, was most enjoyable, and is on tape at the Museum. A history of the Pendleton family will be presented next.

Mr. Ralph Richardson came by "Open Sunday" on the 7th and was interested to see copies of some of his valued old pictures of Valdosta. He has offered to let us copy more, particularly the J. T. Roberts home on Wells Street, "With chickens in the yard", he said. Ralph informed us that the "Dairy Dinner" (I call it) picture at Suitsus Dairy was at the original location where the S & K Drive-In used to be, now an Enco Station at the point of Ashley Street and Memis Road. The dairy later moved out Bay Tree Road beyond the railroad track.

Our second "Open Sunday" was Nov. 14th and Emma and Joe Stevens report a dozen or more visitors. Mrs. Elwyn Dasher brought a picture of her father-in-law, John R. (Bob) Dasher, Mayor 1930 (died same year in office), adding to our growing number of pictures of city and county officials.

We have the following pictures of city-county officials: P. C. Pendleton, Mayor, 1930-32, 1932-34, J. T. Roberts, Mayor 1906-16 (5 consecutive terms), Maxwell Oliver, Mayor 1960-62, 1962-64. Marian Bright is having a copy made of her father, Tom Converse, Mayor 1916-18. And she has other pictures to offer us. Among the pictures presented by Mrs. Edith Mixon was an early Jack Oliver Tournament: J. E. (Ned) Thigpen, M. M. (Massey) Belote, J. T. Mathis, James Dasher, George H. Feagle, Maxwell Oliver, Billy Oliver, Russell Peeples, Johnny Oliver, George Converse, Winston McKey and Mr. Jack Oliver.

Prof. J. L. Lomax has promised a copy of the history of the Macedonia Baptist Church that had its beginning at Troupville. He said the church was near the site of the Lowndes High School on what was the McKey Plantation.

We are continuing to tape family histories and reminiscences of local people. The Society is planning a book of family histories, pictures and local stories. It will be a contribution to the history of Lowndes County, certainly not a complete one, but a volume, with more hopefully to follow. Let us record the things you remember about old Valdosta, your families and friends, stories that should be preserved and shared by all.

Tom Shelton reports that he and Joe Stevens were invited Monday Nov. 15th to the old Troupville site by Walter Zant of Correctional Institute, to be shown a recently discovered Troupville cemetery four hundred yards up the river. There was much overgrowth, evidence of old cedars, outlines of graves and a few wooden markers, but no discernible names.

I believe we had planned to be closed on Sundays in December. But I'd like to see us have an old-fashioned Christmas atmosphere in our Museum and be open one Sunday afternoon, have scenes of the way it was, serve old-fashioned candy and cookies. This is a project for all the Society and with only your approval, so this is merely a suggestion and we can talk about it on Nov. 18th at our meeting.

A request: Does anyone have copies of June 1905 Valdosta Daily Times that they would loan me, ASP? Please let me know. They are not on microfilm anywhere.

This is our first attempt at a Newsletter. Send us some information, requests, anything we should let our members know. Next meeting, November 18th.