

WEST GADSDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Vol. 2, No. 2

Post Office Drawer D
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www.GadsdenHistory.org

July 2007

GROWING.....**GROWING.....GROWING!!!!!!**

Is Gadsden County's history important to YOU? Are YOU interested in discovering more about Gadsden County? Do YOU want to support a worthy cause? If you answered "Yes" to any of these questions, WGHS NEEDS YOU!!! We now have 47 LIFETIME members. These 47 individuals have been willing to signify their support of WGHS and its mission to preserve the history, culture and natural beauty of Gadsden County. *Lifetime membership is \$500.00 per person.* Our first plaque honoring these individuals is almost filled. Your investment supports a very worthwhile endeavor. All donations and memberships allow WGHS to remain as a strong and viable organization. Regrettably, some of you have delayed joining or through an oversight have failed to renew your annual membership. Take time now and keep West Gadsden Historical Society GROWING!

SMALL MATCHING GRANT RECEIVED --- ROOFING WORK COMPLETED

It was less than a year ago the grant was signed allowing us to re-roof The Dezell House. The work was completed by Pantera Roofing, Inc. and MLD Architects, Inc. prior to our June 30th deadline. Our initial plan of work was reduced due to the fact that lead was found in the paint on the dormers. Expensive lead abatement work had to be included in the contract. The total of the construction contract was \$55,466.00. Our grant was only \$50,000.00. The grant did not cover any of the architects' fees. The window restoration project completed by Terry Hayes Restoration was funded in its entirety by a generous anonymous donor. The Dezell House has been restored from the roof top down to the eaves. This includes the structural work, painting, replacing rotten decking, installing metal shingles and re-pointing both chimneys.

As reported in the January newsletter, WGHS' special category grant application was ranked #57 last September. The Legislature funded only 11 projects. Therefore, an updated application was re-submitted for another grant cycle. The Florida Historic Commission will review this application September 24, 2007, in Tallahassee at the R. A. Gray Building. This meeting is open to the public. Truthfully, due to legislative statewide budget cuts, our chances of receiving grant funds at this time are very slim. WGHS is one of 150+ projects vying for approval. Without this grant, moving forward with restoration of our headquarters and museum will depend solely on the financial support from businesses and individuals who care about Gadsden County's history and want to see present and future citizens educated regarding this rich history. Our county and community deserve a museum! The reality is close; YOUR financial support can make it possible.

APALACHICOLA NORTHERN RAILROAD --- GREENSBORO DEPOT 100th Anniversary Celebration

A special "Thank You" is given to Mr. Billy Howell and family of Port St. Joe for joining us on a very cold and windy April 15th! Mr. Howell gave an interesting talk regarding the history of the Apalachicola Northern Railroad. He also brought some wonderful photographs. He shared these with WGHS and allowed us to have copies made of the photographs. Dave Ferro, a WGHS member and an avid fan of railroad history, donated his time and talents to make and install the sign on the south façade of the old depot. This sign makes the old building look more realistic and true to character. WGHS thought the Town of Greensboro and its residents would appreciate the depot being painted. The color chosen was "Montgomery White" by Benjamin Moore. Eppes Decorating Center of Tallahassee, remembering their Gadsden County roots, allowed us to purchase 25 gallons of paint at their cost. Support from businesses like this is really appreciated! A "Thank You" goes to North Florida Vault and Bradwell Mortuary for providing the "necessary" facilities and tent, etc.

What will WGHS do with the depot? That is the question many have asked. Once again everything takes money. WGHS applied for a Transportation Enhancement Grant from the Florida Department of Transportation. We appreciate the support of Gadsden County and its Board of County Commissioners who agreed to sponsor us in this regard as well as administer the grant at no charge. By October we will know if our application was approved. It would be 5 years before any of these grant funds are received. Expenses would have to be paid before any funds would be released. We would have use funds on hand to begin the restoration or we would have to borrow the funds. At this point, neither of these options is open to us. The depot will have to wait.

Some folks have said they would like to see the depot restored rather than The Dezell House; the depot is more meaningful to the community. There is a problem with this line of reasoning. The Dezell House is the headquarters of West Gadsden Historical Society, Inc. If not for West Gadsden Historical Society, Inc., the depot would not have been saved. WGHS worked long and hard to provide everything required to accomplish this feat. WGHS cannot go forward with the depot at the expense of our own needs. Our organization desperately needs office and meeting space. We need storage space for our records as well as the many items that have been so generously donated to WGHS. The Dezell House is where historical research will be performed. This space must be secure and climate controlled. It is not a question of either/or, but a determination of priorities. If funds are donated or granted, both projects will proceed at the same time. Our organizational needs as a non-profit corporation and business entity must take precedence.

BARN DAY

The rain that finally appeared on June 2nd did not dampen the spirits of those gathered at the “I Hear Hester Singing” Barn in Sawdust. WGHS served almost 100 breakfasts. Kay Davis Lay has lovingly preserved this barn as it was during the shade tobacco era. This year Barn Day’s theme included the “Shared Past” Gadsden County has with Jamestown, Virginia and America’s 400th Anniversary. Approximately 200 people enjoyed the program and many bought WGHS T-shirts, note cards and our Flavors of Home cookbook. WGHS supports any historical endeavor related to Gadsden County. We thank Kay for allowing us to be a part of 2007 Barn Day.

QUILT DONATION

Eva Mae Whittle Peters of Sycamore knows all about hard work -- the tedious and time consuming kind that it takes to cut, piece and quilt an extraordinary work of art by hand. She generously donated a “Block Quilt” to WGHS for us to give away at our Open House on July 4th. There were many tickets purchased for a chance to be the one person to take this beautiful piece of Americana home. Bruce Rowan of Juniper was the one who received this honor. Congratulations, Bruce! Thank you so much, Eva Mae, for your donation that fueled a great fund raiser for WGHS!

3rd ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

West Gadsden Historical Society held its 2nd Annual Quilt Show at its Open House July 4th. The quilt show, organized by Shirley T. Clark with help from her husband and WGHS lifetime member, Scott Clark, was another huge success. Shirley organizes most of WGHS’ events involving the serving of food. She took the 4th off to win a trophy in the Kiwanis Club Race. J. Russell Smith along with John and Patsy Canetta donated sausage, buns and condiments for sausage dogs. They did a terrific job preparing this delicious lunch! Without them we would have had no lunches for sale. Due to the construction and other tasks required of our volunteer directors, the Open House activities were scaled down this year. Admittedly attendance was less, but there was good support from those who attended. Patricia Fletcher Vice, as usual, organized the sale of homemade baked goods, boiled peanuts and drinks. Patricia has a loyal list of members and other supporters who donate these baked goods each year. What a wonderful contribution these good-hearted ladies provide to WGHS!

West Gadsden Historical Society

Exists Because of YOU

All Lists Effective 01/01/07 – 07/25/07

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Lynne Layton Poucher
Charles Allen Poucher
Amber Leanne Poucher
Shari Richardson Arrington
Jean Ogilvie Dean
Victor R. Silvestri
Amy Leann Roach
Joe Ann Hansford
J. Mulder Brown
Patricia Fletcher Vice
William Vice
Donnie H. Roberts
Angela Boynton Cassidy
Patricia Lam Pitts
William K. "Buddy" Pitts
Joyce VanLandingham Roach
Rosalyn Fletcher Fenn
Ruth Brown Sanson
Avery Daniel Layton
Ellen Sunday Clark
Allen Clark
Virgil H. Butler
Thad White, Sr.

Richard L. Thompson
Charlie M. Macon
Isaac Simmons, Jr.
Sondra Lee Green
Richard W. Pohlman
Peter W. Prugh
Laura A. Kammerer
B. Scott Clark
Clay VanLandingham
Mari VanLandingham
Jane Wagner Clark
Janet Fletcher Bridges
James R. Dezell, Sr.
Dr. J. Kenneth Davis
Suzanne Fletcher Hood
Adrian C. Fletcher and Annie Muriel
Fletcher Foundation, Inc.
Layton Bookkeeping Services
Mary Barber Cox
Samuel J. Fenn
Marcia W. Fenn
Eva Mae Whittle Peters
Shirley T. Clark
Kay Davis Lay
Thomas J. Rabon

NEW MEMBERS

Annis C. Dominey
Finley Cook
Kathy Macon Cook
Pollie T. Howell
Bessie McSwain
Ella Kennedy
T. C. Fortson
Ellajane Clark Inman Sutley
Kimble Mulford
Betty Mulford
Anna Lois Clark Antemann

Fred Ogilvie
Virginia Ogilvie
Carol Jean Crawford
Pat Dallas
Roberta P. Edwards
Billy VanLandingham
Vicki VanLandingham
Bob Alcorn
Fay Alcorn
Chris Richards
Nancy Richards

RENEWING MEMBERS

Linda Clark Smith
Charles Corbin
Lila Corbin
Byron Clark
Gary Bryant
Ann Bryant
John Canetta
Patsy Canetta
Hugh McPherson
James O. Rudd
James H. Campbell
H. Maxwell Fletcher, Jr.
Garon Boyd
Randall McPherson
Glenda McPherson
Kenneth Vargas
Kim Vargas

Wilford Kennedy
Donna Warlick
Frank Rowan
Emily Rowan
Thelma S. Fisk
James H. Thompson
Robert Dallas
George P. McKeown
Amanda Eady
Bill Willis
Patsy Willis
Grady Turnage
Ann F. Shepard
Greensboro Kiwanis
John Logue
Lorene Logue
Charles McClellan

Barbara McClellan
Harry Rudd
J. C. Rowan
Herman Rowan
Eudene Rowan
George Johnson
Marcelle Johnson
Shirley Chester
Rick Edwards
Mary K. Edwards
Russell Smith
Mary Smith
Kathryn Scott
Carol Johnston
Mike Shepard

NEW BUSINESS MEMBER

North Florida Vault & Septic Tank Mfg., Inc.

RENEWING BUSINESS MEMBER

Bradwell Mortuary

DONATIONS

Bruce & Angela Rowan
Hugh McPherson
Ruth Sansom
Pollie J. Howell
James H. Campbell

Joyce VanLandingham Roach
Lota G. Coffel
Kay Davis Lay
Fort Knox Center
Charles & Barbara McClellan

WGHS deeply appreciates your donations remembering loved ones and honoring those special to us. These gifts keep on giving as the Society grows. Effective as of 01/01/07 – 07/25/07:

MEMORIALS

Gary and Ann Bryant
in memory of
Marion Fletcher

John and Patsy Canetta
in memory of
Annie Muriel Smith Fletcher

James O. Rudd
in memory of
Alfred Smith "Sonny" Suber

Gary and Ann Bryant
in memory of
Louise Chester

Gary and Ann Bryant
Keith and Laura Fischer
in memory of
Karen Jenkins Bennett

James and Linda Smith
in memory of
Merle Bartlett

Joyce and Amy Roach
Al and Lynne Poucher
in memory of
Grace Cross Betts

Dr. & Mrs. T. Bert Fletcher, Jr.
in memory of
Mavis Clark Fletcher
Mr. & Mrs. T. Bertelle Fletcher, Sr.

Dean and Rosalyn Fenn
Bill and Patricia Vice
in memory of
Earl Willis

Bill and Patricia Vice
Al and Lynne Poucher
Dean and Rosalyn Fenn
Gary and Ann Bryant
in memory of
Edward H. Fletcher, Sr.

HONORARIUM

Robert Lay and Sue Cavallo-Lay
in honor of
Kay Davis Lay

Purchase your copies of FLAVORS OF HOME at the following locations:

GREENSBORO

Phyllis's Café

BRISTOL

Apalachee Restaurant

QUINCY

A Touch of Tiffany

Mane Attraction

Padgett Jewelers

Studio J M

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Premier Bank

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CHATTAHOOCHEE

Twin City News

Dr. James F. Melzer

HAVANA

Shear Attitudes

A Touch of Class Florist

Planters Exchange

WGHS appreciates all of these businesses selling our cookbooks. If you would like to add your name as a business partner, please call 850-442-6434.

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