

# 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 100<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup>! 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 400<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup>. 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!

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

West Gadsden Historical Society held its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Quilt Show at its Open House July 4<sup>th</sup>. 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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

**TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION**

Because I care about Gadsden County's history, I would like to make a \$ \_\_\_\_\_ donation to assist WGHS in achieving its mission to preserve the history of the county while emphasizing the western area of the county.

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**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Individuals	\$25.00
Businesses	\$250.00

**LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Individuals	\$500.00
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NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

**MEMORIAL/HONORARIUM**

A gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is given in memory/honor (circle one) of \_\_\_\_\_

by \_\_\_\_\_ . Acknowledgement is to be mailed to:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name) (City & State) (Zip)

\*\*\*\*\*

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

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Mane Attraction

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Dr. Sterling Watson

**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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