

# WEST GADSDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Vol. 3, No. 1

Post Office Drawer D  
Greensboro, FL 32330-0803  
850.442.6434

February 2008

[www.GadsdenHistory.org](http://www.GadsdenHistory.org)

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

Since our Special Edition of the newsletter in November, we have had 5 new lifetime members, 10 new members and 25 renewing members. A very big THANK YOU to all of you! YOUR membership is the very life of our organization. As we apply for grants, community support matters to the grantors. For instance, if your spouse renewed, but you chose not to renew, our numbers drop. With lower numbers, the assumption is made that we lack the backing of the very people for whom our work is to benefit. This can and does have a negative affect on our funding from the State of Florida and other sources. Please renew today. If you have postponed joining WGHS, please decide to take a stand for Heritage Tourism in Gadsden County today. You matter to WGHS! An expiration date has been added to your mailing label. Without your renewal, your name will be purged from our mailing list. Surely, you don't want to miss any of our newsletters. WGHS will miss you very much. With each and every one of you, our organization grows and grows and grows.

## RICHARD THOMPSON'S CHALLENGE

Will you join the five people who have responded to Richard's Challenge? Earlier in the beginning of the organization, lifetime members' dues were \$250.00. Richard challenged all of these members to match their initial dues with another \$250.00 by January, 2009. Wouldn't it be great if we have 100% positive response to this challenge in 2008? With 59 LIFETIME members, we are making progress with seven names on the new plaque. Both the first and second plaques will be on display for our annual Open House on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

## SEEKING GRANT FUNDS

Our small matching grant application will be reviewed March 31, 2008. If we are approved, we should receive our funds in late July or August. We will submit our 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Category grant application by July 31, 2008. Hopefully, the third time will be the charm. Maybe the grant panel will become tired of seeing us and award us the grant. If not, we will be back again and again until we obtain our well deserved portion of historical preservation dollars. We are in the process of finalizing a contract with MLD Architects to prepare plans and specifications for the remainder of The Dezell House Project. With these plans in hand, perhaps the Florida Historical Commission will see our dedication and sincerity. Your dues and donations make it possible to pay for these services above and beyond any grant funds received. WGHS thanks you for all of your generous gifts.

The W. P. Humphrey Club is also seeking grant funds to restore The Old Gretna School. We are pleased to see the efforts of others to preserve various aspects of Gadsden County's history. We wish them success.

## APALACHICOLA NORTHERN RAILROAD --- GREENSBORO DEPOT

WGHS was invited to attend the Railroad Society meeting January 28<sup>th</sup> in Tallahassee. The group wanted to hear about the Greensboro Depot. For any who would like to work on this wonderful project, please contact us. There are various elements that can be removed from the building that will facilitate the discovery process of what was there historically. According to Bill McCord, Gadsden County's Planning and Zoning Director, WGHS should receive funds in 2009 for engineering and architectural planning for the future restoration. The restoration work is scheduled to begin in 2012. The restored Depot is going to be quite splendid. It will be THE place to see on the Florida Arts Trail!

## GREENSBORO CENTENNIAL

The Town of Greensboro turns 100 years old this year! WGHS will be celebrating this event with a two day OPEN HOUSE, Friday and Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. All are encouraged to take advantage of the long weekend to return home, and see the accomplishments of West Gadsden Historical Society. We will have boiled peanuts, cold drinks and rocking chairs that invite you to sit a spell and enjoy visiting and reminiscing. We will have both The Dezell House and the Greensboro Depot open to visitors. Please make your plans now to join us for this weekend. As plans develop, we will post them on our web site. Check for updates.

## NOTICE OF UPCOMING BOOK

### REVISED FINAL CALL FOR ENTRIES TO THE FIRST EDITION OF THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF FLORIDA SHERIFFS NOTICE TO ALL ACTIVE SHERIFFS OF ALL COUNTIES

### & RETIRED OR FORMER SHERIFFS & FAMILIES OF DECEASED SHERIFFS

The Encyclopedia will present a comprehensive list of Florida sheriffs including condensed biographies, family genealogies and history of tenures as an anthology of law enforcement in the STATE OF FLORIDA from 1821 to 2008. Information may be obtained from and entries may be submitted to :

Victor R. Silvestri, Editor, 561 Tall Oaks Road, DeFuniak Springs, Florida 32435-8972

Please contact him with your information if you are one of the groups mentioned above. WGHS wishes Mr. Silvestri much success in this endeavor. Please keep us posted on your progress!

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED

*February 17<sup>th</sup>* - Dr. Titus Brown, Professor of History at Florida A&M University will be our guest speaker. He is the author of Faithful Firm and True: African American Education in the South, co-author of African American Life on The Southern Hunting Plantation, Albany State University: A Centennial History and The African American Experience. He received his Doctorate of Philosophy degree from Florida State University in 1995. He is a past National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow. He has served on the Editorial Board and currently serves on the Advisory Board of the Southern Conference for African American Studies. He recently served on the Southern Program Committee for the Organization of American Historians, the largest learned society for history in the world. Dr. Brown has been employed by Florida A&M University for sixteen years.

*March 16<sup>th</sup>* - Grady Turnage, local historian, will speak to the group about his new book, River Talk. We look forward to another visit from Mr. Turnage, who can always impart knowledge to us about our entire county and the area along the Apalachicola River.

*April 20<sup>th</sup>* - This meeting is dedicated to our own Flavors of Home cookbook. Our sales of this book have been phenomenal, selling over 1000 books to date. To show our appreciation, we will feature recipes from the cookbook for another Tasting Party. In March 2007, we held a Tasting Party which got our sales campaign off to a roaring start. If you have purchased one of the books and have a favorite recipe you would like to share, please call Patricia Vice at 442-4041. Come on out and enjoy great food and fellowship with us.

*May 18<sup>th</sup>* - In honor of Memorial Day, our meeting will feature any and all of your war memorabilia. Please come and share with us memories of your fathers, grandfathers, husbands, brothers, and others who fought during any of the terrible wars of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

All of the above meetings will be held at Gardner Hall, 150 East 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Greensboro, at 3:00 P. M.

**West Gadsden Historical Society**

**Exists Because of YOU**

*All Lists Effective 11/15/07 – 02/04/08*

**LIFETIME MEMBERS**

*Lynne Layton Poucher*  
Shari Richardson Arrington  
*Amy Leann Roach*  
Patricia Fletcher Vice  
Angela Boynton Cassidy  
*Joyce VanLandingham Roach*  
Avery Daniel Layton  
Virgil H. Butler  
Charlie M. Macon  
Richard W. Pohlman  
B. Scott Clark  
Jane Wagner Clark  
Dr. J. Kenneth Davis

*Charles Allen Poucher*  
Jean Ogilvie Dean  
Joe Ann Hansford  
William Vice  
William K. "Buddy" Pitts  
Rosalyn Fletcher Fenn  
Ellen Sunday Clark  
Thad White, Sr.  
Isaac Simmons, Jr.  
Peter W. Prugh  
Clay VanLandingham  
Janet Fletcher Bridges  
Suzanne Fletcher Hood

*Amber L. Rabon*  
Victor R. Silvestri  
J. Mulder Brown  
Donnie H. Roberts  
Patricia Jean Pitts  
Ruth Brown Sansom  
Allen Clark  
Richard L. Thompson\*  
Sondra Lee Green  
Laura A. Kammerer  
Mari VanLandingham  
James R. Dezell, Sr.  
Adrian C. Fletcher and Annie  
Muriel Fletcher Foundation,  
Inc.  
Samuel J. Fenn  
Shirley T. Clark  
Patricia B. Anderson  
H. Max Fletcher, Sr.  
Johnathon D. Rabon  
James R. Dezell, Jr.

Layton Bookkeeping Services  
Marcia W. Fenn  
Kay Davis Lay  
Julia Munroe Woodward  
Kathryn McFarlin Fletcher  
Stewart Parsons  
Lori Ann Dezell

Mary Barber Cox  
Eva Mae Whittle Peters  
Thomas J. Rabon  
Devane Mason  
Ken L. Bryant  
Lota G. Smith Coffel  
Lisa Susan Dezell Hood

\*CHALLENGER

*Italics denotes those who have matched the challenge*

We were deeply saddened by the passing of Lota G. Smith Coffel on January 30, 2008. WGHS was honored that she had the confidence in the organization to become a lifetime member on January 12<sup>th</sup>. Our sincere condolences to her family.

**NEW MEMBERS**

Alexander Johnson  
W. Dale Summerford  
Allan Bostick, Jr.

Howard M. Kinch, Jr.  
Ed Richards  
Betty Owens Goza

Karen Alday-Henderson  
Lisa Revels Curvey  
Will Davis

**NEW BUSINESS MEMBERS**

Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce

**RENEWING MEMBERS**

James H. Campbell  
Willie Jenkins, Jr.  
Fred Ogilvie  
Mary Katherine Edwards  
W. O. Whittle  
Emily Rowan  
Linda Clark Smith  
R. Byron Clark  
Ann Blount

Mary W. Spooner  
Mary Frances C. Parramore  
Virginia Ogilvie  
Ken Vargas  
Donna Warlick  
George E. Johnson  
Grady Turnage  
Kimble Mulford

Kathy Cook  
Anna Lois Antemann  
Rick Edwards  
Kim Vargas  
Pollie J. Howell  
Marcelle Johnson  
Amanda Eady  
Betty Mulford

## I CARE DONATIONS

In addition to Memberships, Memorials & Honorariums

Each of these donors invested in WGHS and it will benefit the citizens of Gadsden County far into the future.

11/15/07-02/04/08

### **FOUNDERS**

Adrian C. Fletcher and Annie Muriel Fletcher Foundation, Inc.

*A special thanks to the directors of this foundation for its gifts each year since our founding in 2004. Their loyalty and generosity have assisted in sustaining WGHS during these formative years.*

### **HOMESTEADERS**

Patricia B. Anderson

### **SETTLERS**

Richard Thompson  
Amber L. Rabon

Lynne Poucher  
Joyce V. Roach

Charles A. Poucher  
Amy L. Roach

### **PIONEERS**

Alexander Johnson

Dr. & Mrs. Forrest Taylor

### **FRIENDS**

James H. Campbell  
Ronald L. Clark

Bruce & Angela Rowan  
Peter Prugh

Rita Dawkins  
Allan Bostick, Jr.

Heritage Circle    \$25,000 - and above  
Legacy Builders    15,000 - 24,999  
Patrons              10,000 - 14,999  
Founders             5,000 - 9,999  
Explorers            2,500 - 4,999

Trailblazers        \$1,000 - 2,499  
Homesteaders       500 - 999  
Settlers              250 - 499  
Pioneers             100 - 249  
Friends              up to - 99

WGHS deeply appreciates your donations remembering loved ones and honoring those special to us. These gifts keep on giving. Effective as of 11/15/07 – 02/04/08:

### MEMORIALS

Bill & Patricia Vice  
Lynne Poucher & Joyce Roach  
*in memory of*  
Dale Fletcher Sellars

Walter, Gloria & Clay McPherson  
T. Bert Fletcher III  
*in memory of*  
Kay Fletcher Kincaid

Dean, Rosalyn & Becca Fenn  
Walter, Gloria & Clay McPherson  
*in memory of*  
Betty F. Fletcher

Bill & Patricia Vice  
*in memory of*  
Jean Cockrell

Walter, Gloria & Clay McPherson  
*in memory of*  
E. H. Fletcher

Charles & Lynne Poucher  
*in memory of*  
Christine V. Strickland

Anna Lois Antemann  
*in memory of*  
James Mathew Clark

Walter, Gloria & Clay McPherson  
*in memory of*  
Marion Fletcher

Dean, Rosalyn & Becca Fenn  
*in memory of*  
Mamie Arrington

Lisa Revels Curvey  
*in memory of*  
Mittie Pitts

James R. Dezell, Sr.  
*in memory of*  
Frank Gadsden Dezell

Charles & Lynne Poucher  
*in memory of*  
Lota G. Smith Coffel

### HONORARIUM

Ella Jane Sutley  
*in honor of*  
Vivian Haire



You may purchase copies of FLAVORS OF HOME at the following fine locations:

**BLOUNTSTOWN  
JUST NAILS**

**CHATTAHOOCHEE  
TWIN CITY NEWS**

**QUINCY  
FLOSSIE'S CUT & CURL  
MANE ATTRACTION  
PADGETT JEWELERS  
IVY SHOP  
DR. STERLING WATSON  
MR. EARNEST PECAN SHOP**

**HAVANA  
SHEAR ATTITUDES  
A TOUCH OF CLASS FLORIST  
PLANTERS EXCHANGE  
GRAND'S PRODUCE**

WGHS appreciates these businesses featuring our cookbooks. If you wish to become a business partner, please call 850.442.6434.

West Gadsden Historical Society, Inc.  
Post Office Drawer D  
Greensboro, FL 32330-0803

[www.GadsdenHistory.org](http://www.GadsdenHistory.org)



**NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
GREENSBORO, FL  
PERMIT NO. 5**