



# Wakulla County Historical Society Newsletter

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**MARCH 2010**  
**"HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY"**

## MONTHLY PROGRAM FEATURE

On Tuesday, March 9, 2010 our regular monthly program will feature Bob Hurst of Tallahassee. He will be featuring antebellum homes in the southeastern U. S. He is an avid historian of the southern states and has developed an intense admiration for the remaining homes built prior to the War Between the States. He will share photographs and histories of some of these beautiful old buildings.

This program will be great to help you plan for spring and summer road trips as many of these wonderful structures are now open for visitors and they are all in the South!!! Betty Green

**Meetings are held at the Wakulla County Public Library at 7:00 p.m.**

**WCHS BOARD MEETING MARCH 16, 6:00 P.M.  
AT THE MUSEUM**



Cal Jamison & Cathy Frank



Cathy Frank & Betty Green

Valentine's Day Parade

**Historic Preservation Grant**

The packet of information for the 2011 Matching Grant Panel Meetings to be held March 22-23, 2010, in Tallahassee is now posted on our Web site, <http://www.flheritage.com/grants>. Please contact Grants staff with any questions at 850.245.6333 or 1.800.847.7278, or by email at [bhpggrants@flheritage.com](mailto:bhpggrants@flheritage.com). Bureau of Historic Preservation Grants Program.

**Upcoming Events For Fund Raising**

We will be at the following festivals and will need volunteers to help with all these events.

Contact Carolyn Harvey.

- ❖ **St. Patrick's Day – March 13, 2010**
- ❖ **Sopchoppy Worm Gruntin' Festival – April 10, 2010**



**Spotlight on the Museum**

Mary Sampson, Museum Director, has big plans for our museum. The front entry will have a feature "Spotlight on History." Come by to see what we have on exhibit now.



**History Exploration**

John Y. Roberts has been doing a lot of research on Salt Pan Island. We will be doing a series featuring his story and will have a program in September at the

Library. The following is the story by John Y. Roberts.

"Salt Pan Island" is only accessible by boat and not many people know anything about it. It is located up Salt Pan Creek, across the St. Marks River from Port Leon, just up river a short distance. I believe this to be, with little doubt, the salt works described by Susan Bradford Epps, the author of "Through Some Eventful Years", which was owned and operated by her father, Dr. Edward Bradford of Pine Hill Plantation, Tallahassee.

My grandfather and my father told me about this island when I was just a young boy. When I was about 12 or 13 years old, a friend and I took a boat up Salt Pan Creek and went on the island. I distinctly recall the ruins of the salt works on the island. Recently, I made my next trip to the island. It had been 55 years since I had been there, and still the evidence was there. Iron from the boiling pots, brick from the oven(s), and a shallow well in the middle of the island. Some brick from the furnace was also still there. At the outbreak of the Civil War, the federal government established a complete blockade around the seceding states. It extended from the mouth of the Potomac to the Rio Grande. Once established, the blockade was very effective, and foreign trade practically came to an end. The price of salt, along with many other necessities, became prohibitive due to their scarcity. Salt prices rose to \$25.00 a bushel, and had reached a crisis point around the end of 1862.



John Y. Roberts at Salt Pan Island Salt Works

**"Salt prices had reached \$25 a bushel and had reached a crisis at the end of 1862"**



John Y. Roberts at Salt Pan Island with piece of iron pot.

To Be Continued...

## Committee Reports

### Genealogy

Carolyn Harvey, Chair of the Genealogy Group, would like to invite you to join them for their next special meeting on *Sat. March 20, Genealogy Day at the Latter Day Saints Church, Tall. Meet at 8:30 a.m. to carpool.* Call 850-524-5334.

To receive tips called "About Genealogy Tip of the Day, and "The Weekly Discovery." Send your request to [46frog@gmail.com](mailto:46frog@gmail.com).

**No Meeting Thursday, March 4, 6:30 p.m.**

### Membership

Tanya Lynn reports that we have two new members. You can contact Tanya at [tanyalynn165@gmail.com](mailto:tanyalynn165@gmail.com) for more information.

[Click here to download a membership application](#)

### Heritage Village Committee

No news on Heritage Village project grant, you can email Murray McLaughlin at [murrmac@embarqmail.com](mailto:murrmac@embarqmail.com) for more information.

### Cemetery Committee

Look for the new signs at cemeteries that we maintain. We want the public to see how hard John is working to represent our society keeping up these sometimes abandoned cemeteries. If you would like to help John E. Roberts, you can contact him at [jeroberts@comcast.net](mailto:jeroberts@comcast.net).

### Audio Visual Coordinator

We are still working on copying tapes of our WCHS meetings onto DVD. John E. Roberts has been helping with this project. Anyone else who would like to volunteer to help with this should contact Scott Joyner at the Wakulla County Library. Scott has the directions written out and he will be there to assist if needed. It is not difficult, but takes a little time.

You can contact Scott at [scottj@wakullalibrary.org](mailto:scottj@wakullalibrary.org).

### Historian

By Arlene Vause

The State Archives has agreed to microfilm the Mt. Elon Baptist Church minutes for the WCHS. These church minutes begin in 1854. Since we do not have property records or marriage records dating back that far, for a lot of families, these minutes are the earliest records we have from Wakulla County. This will be a real treasure for the WCHS to have.



### Public Relations, Sponsors & Donations

By Sandra Vidak

This committee was created during the February board meeting for the purpose of focusing on corporate sponsors, community donations and public relations to promote the Society's goals and support needs. The efforts of this committee are to enhance and work in concert with the Fund Raising Committee. Gene

Streety and Sandra Vidak agreed to collaborate in bringing forth ideas and an action plan. It is with great excitement we await the debut of the WCHS official website since its inception and that of this committee was simultaneous.

Social networking and the personal approach are our strongest means to gain support. We have created a Facebook group for Wakulla County Historical Society which will hyperlink to the website) open for anyone to join.

Facebook is an effective means for publicity to former residents and property owners living elsewhere. The Board is encouraged to post on the wall, begin discussion topics and post pictures.

We are in research mode regarding effective public relations strategy for soliciting donations. The Society has come a very long way and is extremely creditable in the community. The interest in preserving Wakulla County's history is obvious. Capitalizing on that credibility and interest is natural. The 2006 population of the county was 29,542 (Wakulla County Evaluation and Appraisal Report of Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.). According to 2007 data, an estimated 500 private business establishments exist within the county. We are looking at all available resources to identify and

**"A morsel of genuine history is a thing so rare as to be always valuable"**

**Thomas Jefferson**

**The Preservation of Wakulla County History  
"A Work in Progress"**



**Betty Green at  
Valentine's Day**

### **Public Relations, Sponsors & Donations Cont...**

target business owners and others likely amenable to sponsorship. A suggested list will be produced for board members to consider in helping to determine who among us is best suited and willing to call upon whom. We'd like to be apprised of everything previously developed by the Board for public relations purposes. We welcome your suggestions, along with pictures and previously prepared written material, by email to [vestreety@msn.com](mailto:vestreety@msn.com) and [vidaks@embarqmail.com](mailto:vidaks@embarqmail.com).

### **Program Announcements**

- **33rd Annual Reenactment of the Battle of Natural Bridge.** March 6th: Event guests will mingle with civil war re-enactors and observe a Confederate-Union skirmish, cavalry demonstrations, artillery shows and medical treatment examples. March 7th: The official Opening Ceremonies and Dedication, sponsored by the United Daughters of the Confederacy, will begin at 1:45 p.m., followed by a full-scale reenactment of the Battle of Natural Bridge at 2:30 p.m. Refreshments, including hamburgers, hotdogs, snacks and soft drinks will be available both days at 12:00 p.m. and parking is available at the park.  
**Admission is free but donations will be accepted. Contact: (850) 922-6007**
- **The Tallahassee Genealogical Society** Spring Seminar - Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at the St. John's Episcopal Church Alfriend Hall, Tallahassee, Florida. Keynote speaker this year is Lloyd Bockstruck, call Carolyn @ 850-524-5334 for complete information.
- **Tour of Homes**, Monticello, Florida, March 20, 2010 – Call 850-997-5007 for complete information.

### **Message from the President**

I am so honored to be the president of such a wonderful group of people. Our board meeting was full of excitement as we made plans to add a web store to our website. We elected a Public Relations, Sponsors, & Donations Committee. Sandra Vidak and Gene Streety will serve in this capacity. We are now working on a Sopchoppy exhibit at the museum. The board voted to spruce up another room so we could put other exhibits on display. Thanks to Jim Calhoun for doing such a great job. Our goal is to have a museum that we can be proud of and people will want to visit us. We also voted to add a sign to the museum. We are excited that we have decided to publish another Wakulla County Book. Other ideas are coming so keep checking the newsletter. We would like to express our condolences to the family of Arlan Bowen our past Treasurer 1997-2008. We encourage you to make a donation in Arlan's memory.

Thank you for your support.

*Cathy Gray Frank*  
President WCHS

**Visit the Museum on Thursday and Friday from 10:00 – 4:00 p.m. You can contact Mary Sampson, Museum Director at [msampson26@comcast.net](mailto:msampson26@comcast.net) if you need any assistance or would like to visit the museum. Museum Telephone Number 850-926-1110  
We're on the web at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flwchs/>**