

FG/CCHS NEWS



Preserve, Protect, Promote

FORT GAINES/ CLAY
COUNTY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

SPECIAL POINTS
OF INTEREST:

- 98 Lifetime, new and renewed members strong.
- Annual dinner Held
- July 4th Open House
- 1st Saturdays
- Historical Marker Project

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 1

Summer 2022

4th of July Open House



Photo by Roxanne Simpson

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On Saturday July 2, 2022, FG/CCHS held an open house from 10AM to 3PM at Sutton's Corner Museum to celebrate the upcoming Independence Day. We had advertised the event online and with posters around town and offered museum tours as well as other folk art attractions during the day. Anne Lynn did a demonstration of 19th century "Roses and Castles" decorative painting and had painted cards and notebooks on sale that day. Cyndie Coleman had classes for children and adults making traditional Native American cornshuck dolls. Trent Tye, our resident blacksmith, held blacksmithing demonstrations with crowd participation. Museum tours were given by Linda Morgan, Ken Johnson and Tim Shaver.

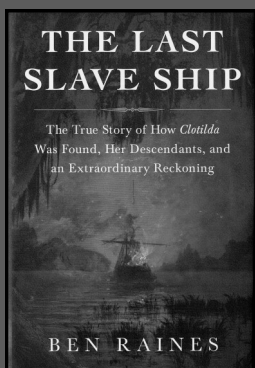
We were gratified at the crowd size and we took in about \$170 dollars in donations and purchases. See our photo collage on page 4 and the paragraph on "1st Saturdays" in "Projects & Progress" on page 3.

In Memory

A valued member of the Society has died. Robert Wood was a generous supporter of FGCHS and a good friend to us all. He will be sorely missed.

FOR HISTORY BUFFS

The true story of the last ship to carry enslaved people to America by the journalist who discovered its remains in the swamps around Mobile Bay.



News and Notes

- The next **Board Meeting** of FG/CCHS will be held at the Sutton’s Corner Museum at 4PM on **Monday November 7, 2022**. All meetings are open to the public and we invite you to attend.
- Thanks to all who promptly responded to the “gentle reminder” in the last newsletter and paid their 2022 dues.
- If you would like to schedule an individual or group tour of the **Sutton’s Corner Museum** please call **229-231-5498** or stop by the library and talk to Dustin.

GIFT ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Catherine & Todd Blonshine

Carol Wood

Denise Hattaway

Yvonne Guynn

New Museum Website!

Board member Tim Shaver has put together a new museum website for the Society. The Board previewed it at the August meeting. It is linked to an Instagram account he set up as well as Facebook and Youtube. The yearly cost to maintain the site will be about \$260. Local photographer Roxanne Simpson graciously came in and took some gorgeous pictures of the museum and its artifacts for us that are featured on the website. Check it out at fortgainesmuseum.com.



2023 Community Birthday and Event Calendar



The Society is on schedule and working hard to put together the 2023 calendar. We sold \$3,292.00 worth of calendars, entries and ads this year. That's a record and is due to the fact that several local businesses upgraded their ads. Thank you very much. Our theme this year is the building of the Walter F. George Lock and Dam.

Cemocheechee Artifacts

Linda Morgan reported at the August board meeting that she had heard from State Archaeologist Rachel Black of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources who stated that our replicas of the missing vessels were ready for us. You may recall that they blew up in the kiln the last time the potter worked on them. It will be wonderful when the exhibit from the Cemocheechee dig is complete again.

Trent Tye Knives On Sale

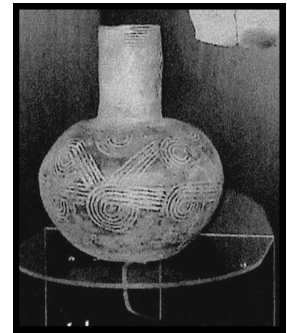
As reported in our previous newsletter, Trent Tye, former host for the Discovery Channel and Forged in Fire Alumnus, has hand forged knives to be sold as a fundraiser for FGCHS. The knives are beautiful and durable and will include a leather sheath stamped with a Society logo. Knives will be sold at our "First Saturday" Open House each month at the Museum.

1st Saturday Open House at Museum

On August 6, 2022 (the first Saturday in August) we held another Open House and had a good crowd again taking in close to \$200 in donations and book and gourd sales. This time we had a demonstration and display using gourds for decorative and practical purposes. Thanks to Jerry Walker for loaning us a few decorative gourds. Douglas Williams came through for us supplying raw gourds from his farm. These two Saturdays were such a success we decided to make them a regular monthly occurrence. We've made plans for programs every "1st Saturday" of the month through December 2022. Watch for information on our website and Facebook.

Historical Marker Refurbishment New Project

All around historic Fort Gaines and Clay County there are historic markers that need refurbishment. Sadly, the State of Georgia no longer takes care of these markers so historical societies and civic entities have had to take over. FGCHS hopes to finish at least one marker by the end of the year. Dustin Holt and Cyndie Coleman are taking the lead on this project.



Tall Vessel Artifact Replica



Blacksmith Trent Tye



Gourds in antique baskets at Museum

4th of July Open House Collage



Pictures courtesy of Diane Johnson

Clockwise from upper right corner: Anne Lynn gives a demonstration of a 19th century decorative painting technique called "Roses and Castles", Anne's beautiful cards on sale, a few of the cornshuck dolls made by children and adults during the day, visitors enjoy their tour of the museum, Cyndie Coleman teaching one of the classes for making cornshuck dolls, blacksmith Trent Tye demonstrated and taught blacksmithing, Tim Shaver gives a tour of the museum.

2021/2022 Annual Meeting Report

On Saturday May 14, 2022, we held the Fort Gaines/Clay County Historical Society's Annual Business and Dinner Meeting at the Presbyterian Church Annex in Fort Gaines after having to cancel it for the last two years due to the pandemic. What follows is an account of the reports given to the membership in attendance. We have had a Board Meeting (Aug 1,2022) since the annual dinner so figures and information given reflect updated information given at that board meeting.

After a greeting by President Anne Lynn, Faye Isele said grace and those in attendance had dinner before we proceeded with the business meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Bess Hartley reported that our current bank balance is \$26, 723.05.

Membership Report: Cyndie Coleman stated that our current membership is 98. That includes three new members in the last quarter as well as a few who went from regular members to lifetime membership when they renewed.

Calendar Report: At this writing, calendar sales are done. Cyndie Coleman informed us that 134 calendars have been sold and we've taken in \$3,292.00 in sales of ads, calendars, and birthdays. We don't know yet how much printing will cost. We recently got an email from the printer warning of materials shortages and price increases. The calendar itself is about 60% complete. The theme for this year is "Building the Walter F. George Lock and Dam". We will have extra copies for sale at Christmas at the Fort, Opera House Hardware and the Clay County Library.

Museum Report: Tim Shaver, Dustin Holt and Linda Morgan have been conducting individual and group tours of the museum. The 4th of July Open House was a success and has prompted the creation of "1st Saturdays" where classes, demonstrations and tours will be held on the first Saturday of each month. The museum itself needs some attention reported Dustin Holt. Of paramount importance is dealing with the air conditioning. Currently only one of the museums two units is operational. Repair will be an expensive undertaking. We did get bids during the pandemic, but they were astronomical (up to \$24,000 for a new unit). Another area that needs attention is the wall between the museum and the bathroom addition. There is a slow leak here down the wall and the beginning of water damage. The roof, thank heavens, is not leaking.

Fort Gaines Improvement Report: (A reminder that the Fort Gaines Improvement initiative is a group effort of the Clay County Economic Development Council, the Fort Gaines Downtown Development Authority and the Fort Gaines/Clay County Historical Society.) EDC chairman Ken Johnson stated that FGI's bank balance was \$14,813.15. Ken had to get all new plaques for the Frontier Village fence. The black ink that was used on the originals was a new product and faded away in the direct sunlight of our hot Georgia summer. The manufacturer has agreed to replace them all with engraved plaques of the type used in botanical gardens. As soon as summer vines on the fence are cleared he will begin the work of replacing the plaques. (continued page 6)

Ken updated the Society on the status of two grants that FGI was pursuing. Funds for the Bed & Breakfast grant we could have received through the governor's office (which would have been administered through the DDA) were diverted to the war in Ukraine . The Fiscal Recovery grant (which would have come from Federal Covid money Georgia received and administered by FGCHS) was denied with no explanation. We may have another shot at this last one when the next round of funds is issued. Plans are in the works to finish installing the split rail fence at the Frontier Village as well as to move the privy before Christmas at the Fort. He noted that Clay County Historian and FGCHS board member Dustin Holt has been involved in all decisions concerning the FrontierVillage.

Real Estate: Anne Lynn informed the membership about real estate transactions the Society undertook during this past year. We sold the Lark property on Hwy. 39 to Randy Stokes. His home lot was directly adjacent and he was glad to have more land. That sale enabled us to afford to buy the little lot between the Museum and Hatchett's Drugs . After some dickering, Hugh Stovall sold the lot to us. Anne thanked Julian Morgan for his invaluable help getting all this done. We've immediately put that lot to use for our blacksmith classes and demonstrations and plan to reface the small building on the site. Anne briefed the Society about the upcoming 4th of July open house.

Cemocheechee Artifacts: Linda Morgan told us about the status of the missing vessels from the artifacts the Department of Natural Resources have returned to us. At the time of the meeting we had not had an update. As reported elsewhere in this newsletter, DNR has told us the replicas made it out of the kiln intact this time.

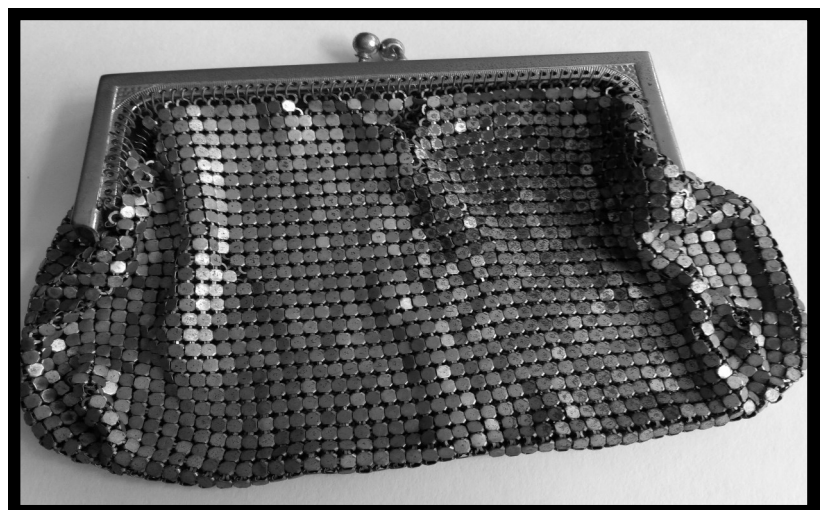
Dill Oak: Linda also outlined the efforts to clean up and preserve the Dill Oak that were undertaken this year by the Society. This project is ongoing.

Knife Sales & Goals: After talking a bit about the upcoming Knife Sale fundraiser and thanking Trent Tye for his generosity and ongoing advice to the Society, Anne Lynn mentioned our committee meetings outlining both short and long term goals of FGCHS. These meetings are ongoing as we hammer out our path forward to " Preserve, Protect and Promote" Clay County, Fort Gaines and our region's rich history.

There being no further business a motion was made and seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

Sutton's Corner Artifacts

**LATE 19TH EARLY 20TH
CENTURY METAL MESH
PURSE**



Out of the Past



Photo courtesy of Linda Morgan

WESLEY CHAPEL circa 1925



CITY DRUGS 1910
Man sitting far left is R.C. Mc Allister. Girl to his right is his daughter Robbie McAllister. Man sitting far right is Ben Turnipseed.

Photo courtesy of Peggy Grimsley Brown

Fort Gaines/Clay County Historical Society, Inc.

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159 Wilson St. Suite 7

Fort Gaines, GA 39851

Want to Join Us?

This membership will entitle you to the following:

- Quarterly Newsletter
- Annual Meeting & Dinner Invitation
- Feel good about helping to Preserve, Protect, and Promote your community and Heritage.

Please fill out the coupon below. Make checks payable to the Fort Gaines/Clay County Historical Society, Inc. and mail to 159 Wilson St. Suite 7, Fort Gaines, GA 39851.

Name: _____

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Individual Membership (\$30.00) Corporate Membership (\$100.00)

Lifetime Membership (\$200.00) Gift Membership (\$30.00)

Membership Type (Please circle one): New Renewal Gift

FYI: If you join as a new member in October, November or December of a given year, your dues cover the following year as well.