

Pea River Historical & Genealogical Society Newsletter

April 2013

Identifying, collecting, preserving, archiving, researching, and promoting interest in historic and genealogical materials and records of Coffee County and the Pea River Region of South Alabama

Dear PRHGS members,

With this first issue, I'm reviving an excellent idea of our Pea River Trails editor, Rex Everage – a society newsletter. A monthly publication will allow us to spread news and publicize events more efficiently than we can do with our quarterly Trails. The newsletter will be sent in .pdf format to all members who provided an e-mail address on the membership application, saving the cost of copying and postage. We will also make the newsletter accessible on our website.

I hope you will all feel free to participate in the newsletter. If you know of an event of historical or genealogical significance in the Pea River area that we haven't listed, please let us know about it, especially family reunions. If you have ideas or suggestions for future issues, I'd like to hear from you!

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PRHGS On-Line

We have a new official website at:

<http://www.peariver.org>

The site contains an index to all back issues of Pea River Trails, along with other useful resources. Several pages of the website are under construction. We hope to complete these sections soon, and eventually include a complete catalogue of the books and other resources in our Library and an on-line store where you can shop for merchandise carried by our Gift Shop.

In addition to the website, we also have a presence on Facebook. Go to Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com>) and type *Pea River Historical and Genealogical Society* in the search box. When the page comes up, "like" us!

March PRHGS Meeting

The Society met on Sunday, March 17, at the Enterprise Welcome Center. Joe Smith presented an inspiring oral history program about a serious accident he suffered while working on an oil rig, and his lengthy recovery from his injuries.

May PRHGS Meeting

We will meet on Sunday, May 19, at 2:00 pm at the Enterprise Welcome Center. As always, the May meeting is our annual business meeting. We urge members to attend this important meeting.



Do you have **two hours each week** that you could spend volunteering at one of our facilities? Give us a call at 393-2901.

You can make a **big difference** in allowing us to have our Gift Shop/Library, the Depot Museum, and the Welcome Center open every day from 10 am til 4 pm!

Family Bible Re-united With Owner

In the last issue of Pea River Trails, we described a Bible that was found, and listed the names written inside. The Bible was presented to Frances Andrews King in 1957 by her mother. Among other important events, Frances recorded her marriage (which took place in Enterprise) and the birth of her daughter Ginger.

One of our members recognized the family names, and put them in touch with the Society. As a result, we were able to send the Bible to Ginger. Our thanks to those who found the Bible and helped get it back to the family!



Coffee County Cemetery Project

The Cemetery Committee of the Pea River Historical & Genealogical Society is in the process of identifying and surveying every cemetery in the county.

We want to encourage the marking of graves that were never marked, or have markers that have become unreadable over time. We would like to see an identifying sign at every cemetery as well.

Old family cemeteries and a few cemeteries that were attached to churches no longer in existence, are in regular need of cleaning. We need volunteers willing to work to prevent old cemeteries from becoming overgrown and perhaps lost to time.

If you can help with the work of the Cemetery Project, call Committee Chairman Georgia Fleming at (334) 347-0017 or e-mail hyacinth@ala.net.

PRHGS Oral History Project

The goal of our Oral History Project is to continue collecting audio and video taped interviews and recollections of area residents who lived through the great turning points of the 20th Century, particularly those who witnessed and participated in those events in the Pea River region. We are

especially interested in preserving the stories of our veterans of all wars.

If you have memories to share, or know someone who does and would be willing to participate in the Oral History Project, please call us at 334-393-2901 or e-mail hyacinth@ala.net.



Acquisitions

We recently received a large donation of books from Mount Pleasant Baptist Church. The collection is especially rich in books about Indian tribes of Southeast Alabama – Choctaw, Cherokee and Creek; other tribes across the United States are represented as well. These books explore both the history and culture of the tribes.

There are also several fine additions to our books on Scottish history and genealogy, such as The Highland Scots of North Carolina 1732-1776 and Scotch Irish Pioneers in Ulster and America. Our thanks to Mount Pleasant!



Members: Don't forget that you can use the research computer in the Library/Gift Shop at no charge, a benefit available only to members. We have access to Ancestry.com and a high-speed connection to the Internet. The Ancestry subscription includes all of the U. S. Censuses that have been released (from 1790 to 1940), along with the Slave Schedules of 1850 and 1860 and many other valuable records of births, marriages, and deaths. We've also made it easy for researchers to connect with the Ellis Island database of immigrant arrivals, the Alabama Department of Archives and History database of Alabama Confederate Service Records, and the searchable records of the LDS Church. Stop by the Library when you can and take advantage of what the research computer offers!

Mark Your Calendars!

April 1 – Troy Civil War Forum, 6:30 pm at the Troy Public Library. The program will be “Come, Do Come,” the letters exchanged between Morgan Stoudenmire and his wife Lucy during the War Between the States. The letters will be read by Joe and Donna Clark of Elba, wearing period dress. Joe is Commander of the Coffee County Rangers Camp 911, Sons of Confederate Veterans; Donna is Second Vice President of the Gen. Edmond Winchester Rucker Chapter 2534, United Daughters of the Confederacy; she also serves as President of the Alabama Division of the UDC.

April 5, 6 & 7 – 47th Annual Eufaula Pilgrimage, sponsored by the Eufaula Heritage Association. Tour historic 19th Century homes, including the Shorter Mansion. Schedule. Ticket prices, and other information can be found at <http://www.eufaulapilgrimage.com/>.

April 6 & 7 – 39th Annual Piney Woods Arts Festival on the grounds of Enterprise State Community College, sponsored by the Coffee County Arts Alliance. Hours are: Saturday 9 am til 5 pm, and Sunday 12 noon til 4 pm. There will be a juried arts and crafts show, and plenty of food and entertainment. For more information, see www.coffeecountyartsalliance.com/#!.

April 26, 27 & 28 – 38th Annual Geneva Festival on the Rivers at Robert Fowler Memorial Park in Geneva. There will be “living history” exhibits. For more information, go to www.genevariverfestival.com/.

May 30 – Unveiling of the Alabama Historical Commission Marker for the birthplace home of James E. (“Big Jim”) Folsom, in Elba, one block east of the courthouse on Putnam Street, next to the old jail, at 10 am. The marker is a project of the John Coffee Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.

Is Your Family Represented ...

... in our Library’s “Surname” collection? These books are family histories and bound collections of family group sheets. If not, please consider donating a copy of your family history. This can be as simple as a few hand-written pages to place in a folder in our Surname filing cabinet, or a professionally published hard-back book for the shelf. Some examples of titles in this collection are: Descendants of William Cain, Dowling Family of Georgia and the Wiregrass, McGinty Family Tree, and Bradleys and Allied Families of South Carolina. We can assist you in binding your history. To find out what we already have on your family, or to arrange the donation of your family history, call Georgia at 334-347-0017, or email hyacinth@ala.net. We are also interested in archiving information copied from Family Bibles in your possession.

Remembering . . . 1937

- Living persons born in 1937 are 76 years old now – or soon will be. Among those born in 1937 were Bill Cosby, Saddam Hussein, and Colin Powell. Some who died in 1937: John D. Rockefeller and George Gershwin,
- In the news: the German dirigible *Hindenburg* exploded at Lakehurst, New Jersey, killing 36; Toyota Motor Company was founded in Japan; Wallace H. Corothers (a chemist with the DuPont Corporation) received a patent for nylon; George VI was crowned King of Great Britain (his brother, King Edward VIII, had abdicated in order to marry American socialite Wallis Warfield Simpson); U. S. Steel raised workers' wages to \$5.00 a day.
- Walt Disney released his first full-length animated feature film – *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*.
- Unemployment in the U. S. stood at 14.3%.
- A first-class stamp cost 3¢.
- Franklin D. Roosevelt was serving his second term as President.
- Bibb Graves was Governor of Alabama; when Roosevelt appointed Senator Hugo Black to the Supreme Court, Graves appointed his wife, Dixie, to serve the remainder of Black's term. Mrs. Graves was Alabama's first female U. S. Senator, and the first married woman to serve in the U. S. Senate.
- In the World Series, the New York Yankees defeated the New York Giants 4-1.
- The Pulitzer Prize for fiction went to *Gone With the Wind*, by Margaret Mitchell.
- A prototype "antihistamine" was produced to treat allergies.
- The Academy Award for Best Picture went to *The Life of Emile Zola*; Spencer Tracy won Best Actor for *Captains Courageous*.
- The Golden Gate Bridge was completed.
- Film stars earning the most money were Shirley Temple and Clark Gable.
- Top songs of 1937 were: "Sweet Leilani" (Bing Crosby), "Once in a While" (Tommy Dorsey and His Orchestra); and "It Looks Like Rain in Cherry Blossom Lane" (Guy Lombardo and His Royal Canadians).
- \$1.15 would buy a loaf of bread (9¢), a gallon of milk (50¢), and a dozen eggs (56¢).
- Life expectancy in the United States for males was 58 years, 62.4 years for females (it is now 78 and 81, respectively).
- The average price of a car was \$675 – gasoline to run it was 20¢ a gallon.
- A transcontinental air record of 7 hours, 28 minutes, 25 seconds was set by millionaire Howard Hughes.
- On April 27, the first Social Security payment was made.
- War Admiral won the Kentucky Derby.
- First seen in 1937 – cartoon character Daffy Duck ... Spam ... commercial flights across the Pacific ... permanent automobile license plates ... a blood bank (in Chicago)
- Last seen in 1937 -- Amelia Earhart and her co-pilot Fred Noonan (vanished over the Pacific) ... the Balinese Tiger (declared extinct).