



THE PEACOCK QUILL



Whitfield-Murray Historical Society

JANUARY 2015

CALENDAR

JANUARY MEETING

Sun., Jan. 18, 2015, 2:30 p.m.
Old Spring Place Methodist Church

GENEALOGY WORKSHOPS

Sat., Feb. 21, 2015, 9:00-4:30

For beginner/Intermediate researchers

Sat., Mar. 7, 2015, 9:00-4:30

Brick Walls Workshop

For intermediate/advanced researchers who have hit a brick wall!

Crown Gardens & Archives

CALL TO REGISTER.

CLINES IMPROVE GARDENS



Routh Cline (pictured) and her son Michael landscaped this segment of the garden at the archives. The beautiful container & kale plants were purchased using a donation from the Dalton Herb Society. Other volunteers have been working on the rest of the garden making vast improvements! Thank you all.

ARE YOU AN AMAZON CUSTOMER?

Order through amazonmile.com, & designate your order to benefit the Whitfield-Murray Historical Society!

JAN. MEETING FEATURES COMMITTEE REPORTS; NEW OFFICERS & TRUSTEES ELECTED

The January meeting of the Whitfield-Murray Historical Society will be Sun., Jan. 18, 2:30 p.m., at the old Spring Place Methodist Church. The program will feature committee reports from 2014. Come hear what WMHS has accomplished in the past year!

New officers & trustees were elected at the Nov. meeting: Tim Howard, president; Sue Crawford, 1st VP for programs; Jan McNeill, secretary; Martha Minor, treasurer; Nellena Smith & Jane Harrell, public relations. Mary Hardin will continue in her second year as 2nd VP for membership.

New trustees elected to three-year terms were Bill Bowen & Carlton McDaniel; current trustees reelected for three-year terms were Judy Alderman & Marvin Sowder. Other trustees continuing in their current terms are Ralph Ausmus, Bruce Davies, Woody Glenn, Tonia Kendrick, Don Thomas & Ellen Thompson.

MEETING ROOM IS READY FOR BUSINESS

The repairs to the meeting room from the tree that fell through the roof in October are now complete. It's back to normal for meetings & events. Drop by to see the improved lighting & new flooring in the meeting room.

Donations for the Tut McFarland library & for ongoing repairs not covered by insurance are still welcome.

NEEDED

eBay-savvy volunteer.

Call 706-278-0168.

HAVE COUPONS?

Office Depot, Staples & Big Lots? They are always welcome!

We also recycle printer ink cartridges.

SEATON FAMILY RECEIVES CENTENNIAL FARM DESIGNATION FROM DNR

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources recently bestowed the Centennial Family Farm Award to the Seaton family. The award honors Georgia farms that have been continuously operated by the same family for 100 years or more.



The Seaton family in 1916: William Wesley Seaton, Winfred R. Seaton, Millard R. Seaton, Hillard C. Seaton, Gladys Seaton & Ethel Robertson Seaton.

William Wesley Seaton bought the Whitfield County farm in 1914. The land was considered by neighbors to be "worn-out," but Seaton soon proved himself to be an innovative farmer. He received many accolades over the years for his farm management skills, soil improvement methods, & crop diversity. He was honored in 1930 by the (over)



The Seaton family in 2014: In front-- Martha Jo Seaton Cook. Around Martha: Bob Seaton, Cecilia Seaton Bridges, Dale Bridges Mark Cook & Kara Ross Cook.

SEATON FARM (from front)

Atlanta Chamber of Commerce & Georgia Power Company as the statewide winner of the Profitable Farming Contest & was recognized as a Master Farmer by the University of Georgia in 1936. He was also featured that year in *Progressive Farmer* magazine.

His descendants still live in the 1916 farmhouse (pictured). Today they farm beef cattle as well as corn, soybeans, hay & timber.

REMINDER FROM OUR TREASURER

WMHS treasurer Martha Minor reminds anyone who makes/receives tax-deductible contributions that donation checks should be made out to the Whitfield-Murray Historical Society, not to the individual properties. (Those may be designated in the "for" line.) The tax-exempt status & ID number are in the name of WMHS, so contributions need to be the same. Many thanks!

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

* Tom Ramsey—Chatsworth, GA

HISTORICAL QUESTION #10

In each newsletter, we ask a question about local history. To check your accuracy (or to find the answer!), just go to our website: www.whitfield-murrayhistoricalsociety.org.

The ninth question appeared in the Nov. newsletter: It might have been the first north Georgia case of "urban sprawl," but what present day Murray County city incorporates the much older towns/post offices of Dunn and Pleasant Valley? Answer: Eton.

Here's question 10: What two Dalton homes were used as General Joseph E. Johnston's headquarters while the Confederate army was encamped in this area during the winter of 1863-64?

CONDOLENCES TO . . .

* The family of Bob Howalt. Bob was an active volunteer who stripped paint from the etched archives windows & refinished a number of doors at the archives several years ago.

* The family of Phill Conley, a tireless volunteer at the archives.

RECENT DONATIONS

** The Wright Hotel Committee has purchased a copier to be installed there.
** Lester & Nancy Strain donated a new roof for the Huff House.

** Jean & Sherwood Jones donated Christmas decorations.

** Mr. Hank Dahncke of League City, TX for a generous gift to the Old Methodist Church in memory of Mrs. Jimmie Lou Smith Argo who grew up in Spring Place & attended the church as a child.

** The building has had a "facelift" on both the exterior and the sanctuary with work done by Jeff Johnson of Amen Construction Co. Funding was provided by a grant from the Spring Place Historic Township and from church committee funds.

** Spring Place Ruritan Club for purchasing a copy machine & new tables for use at the Old Church.

** John T. Blunt to the Blunt House fund

** Sally Manly to the General Fund

** Mary Jane Mohr contributed the profit from sales of her book, *Selvidge Street Stories*, to the General Fund

** Jimmy & Mary Prather to the General Fund.

** Jack Bandy to the General Fund.

** Jim and Nancy Bland to CGA for repairs.

** Donations in honor of Tut McFarland were given by Lois Robinson, Dewey Reams, Betty Ann Chamblee, John & Becky Bowling & Mildred I. Sterchi.

** Mary Rogers was honored by a donation from Tut McFarland.

** In memory of Glenn & Annie Laurie Howard to the Wright Hotel fund by Paul & Glenda Houston.

THANKS, VOLUNTEERS!

Thanks to all of you who donated items for the annual Christmas Sale! A special thanks to the following who helped set up, work the sale and pack up: Routh Cline, Ann Compton, Ann Cook, Skip Cox, Jennifer Detweiler, Joy Frerichs, Dorothy Gray, Sherrian Hall, Zeb Henderson, Mary Holland, Virgelia Meek, Anne Monk, Louise Smith, Nellena Smith (chair), Marvin Sowder & Ellen Thompson. Thanks, too, to other archives volunteers: Caroline Brown, John Burton, Phill Conley, Bruce Davies & Patricia Edwards.

Are you handy with a hammer & saw? The archives needs you.

McFARLAND DONATES LETTER TO LESCHE ROOM



Tut McFarland (left) recently donated a hand-written Robert Loveman poem to the Lesche Room at the Hamilton House. Jean Burr (right) had the relic framed in acid-free conditions to ensure longevity. Thank you, Lesche ladies!



CONTACT US

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Open Tues.-Fri., 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sat., 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

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