

CHATTAHOOCHEE TRACINGS

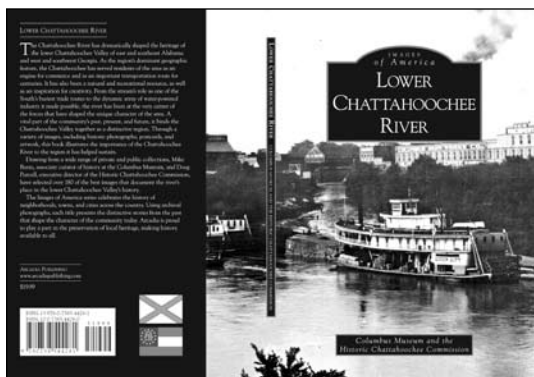
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Chattahoochee Commission

WINTER 2007

HCC AND THE COLUMBUS MUSEUM COLLABORATE ON PHOTO BOOK FEATURING THE LOWER CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER

The Historic Chattahoochee Commission and The Columbus Museum have collaborated on yet another publication—a photo documentary featuring the lower Chattahoochee River. *Lower Chattahoochee River* is part of the Images of America Series published by Arcadia Publishing of Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina. The 128-page publication has 209 photos that document the river's heritage from Troup County, Georgia and Chambers County, Alabama south to Seminole County, Georgia and Houston County, Alabama.



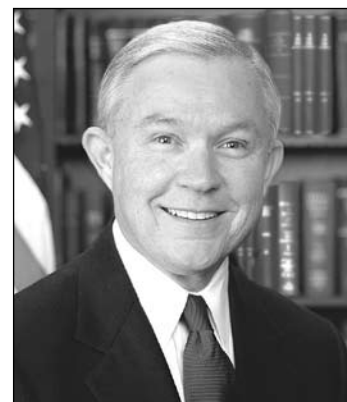
The Lower Chattahoochee River photo documentary book will be available in late April or early May.

water-powered industry it made possible, the river has been at the very center of the forces that have shaped the unique character of the area. A vital part of the community's past, present and future, it binds the Chattahoochee Valley together as a distinctive region. Through a variety of images, including historic photographs, postcards and artwork, this book illustrates the importance of the Chattahoochee River to the region it has helped sustain.

Drawing from a wide range of private and public collections, Mike Bunn, associate curator of history at The Columbus Museum and Doug Purcell, executive director of the Historic Chattahoochee Commission, have selected over 200 of the best images that document the river's place in the lower Chattahoochee Valley's history. This is the 29th publication that the Historic Chattahoochee Commission has sponsored or co-sponsored since 1974.

The book retails for \$19.99 plus \$4.00 for postage and handling. It is anticipated that the publication will be available for distribution in May or early June. Advance orders are being taken by the Historic Chattahoochee Commission at 334-687-9755 or 1-877-766-2443. Orders may also be placed by writing to HCC, P. O. Box 33, Eufaula, AL 36072-0033 or contacting hcc3@earthlink.net. Only 1,500 copies of the book are to be published and they should sell quickly throughout the eighteen county bi-state region represented by the Historic Chattahoochee Commission.

SESSIONS INTRODUCES LEGISLATION CALLING FOR FEDERAL STUDY OF CHATTAHOOCHEE TRACE



U.S. Senator Jeff Sessions

U.S. Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) recently introduced legislation (S. 637) calling for a federal study of the Chattahoochee Trace region of Alabama and Georgia to evaluate the feasibility of designating the corridor as a National Heritage Area.

The Chattahoochee Trace corridor is an 18-county region covering southeast Alabama and southwest Georgia. Session's proposal would require the Interior Secretary to conduct a feasibility study of the Trace, to determine its suitability as a National Heritage Area. In Alabama, the study would specifically examine seven counties—Barbour, Chambers, Dale, Henry, Houston, Lee, and Russell Counties. The Georgia counties are: Troup, Harris, Muscogee, Chattahoochee, Stewart, Randolph, Quitman, Clay, Early, Seminole and Decatur.

National Heritage Areas are significant geographical, cultural and historical sites, as designated by Congress. In contrast to National Parks, National Heritage Areas are not federally owned or managed, but remain maintained and controlled by local entities. Communities designated as a National Heritage Area are eligible for federal funding to be used for promoting tourism and conservation.

(Continued on page two)

2006 CHATTAHOOCHEE TRACE VISITATION STATISTICS SHOW IMPROVING TOURIST NUMBERS

Visitation figures for selected Chattahoochee Trace attractions during 2006 showed significant improvement when compared with figures from the previous year according to Historic Chattahoochee Commission (HCC) Executive Director, Douglas C. Purcell. Each year the Commission tracks attendance at nineteen sites to help gauge the health of the tourism industry in the eighteen county bi-state Chattahoochee Valley region it serves.

Ten attractions showed gains while only nine had decreases. By comparison in 2005, six attractions in the survey had attendance gains. Seven attractions posted gains in 2004, six in 2003, nine in 2002, eight in 2001, nine in 2000, eight in 1999, ten in 1998 and six in 1997. The average attraction visitation increase over the last ten years has been about eight, so 2006 was a very good year for this region. In fact it was the best year since 1998. 842,129 more people visited these attractions in 2006 than the previous year which was an 8% increase. Recorded visitors at these nineteen area attractions were 11,337,599 in 2006 versus 10,495,470 in 2005. The total visitation increase between 2004 and 2005 was only about 1% so 8% is a healthy increase.

Small decreases (under 10%) were recorded at four attractions while five attractions showed moderate to large decreases ranging from 17% to 30.58%. Heading the list with the largest increase was the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge which had a 32.12% attendance gain. However

(Continued on page eight)

HCC APPOINTS THREE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Recent Historic Chattahoochee Commission (HCC) board appointments include: Mrs. Barbara Patton of Opelika, AL; Ms. Kathryn J. Lillethun of Bainbridge, GA; and Mrs. Linda Straub of Pine Mountain, GA. The 28-member board of directors includes fourteen members from both Alabama and Georgia who represent the eighteen county region served by the Commission.



Barbara Patton

Mrs. Barbara Patton was appointed to fill the expired Lee County term of Albert Killian. A resident of Opelika for 33 years, Mrs. Patton was reared in Pensacola, FL and is the owner of Heritage Gifts and Gourmet, a gift shop in historic downtown Opelika. She presently serves as Executive Director of Envision Opelika Foundation, Inc. and is the former mayor of Opelika having served from 1996-2004. Mrs. Patton is the former owner of the Heritage House Bed and Breakfast from 1993-2004. She attended Emory University from 1959-61 and graduated from the University of Alabama in 1963 with a B.S. Degree. A member of the First United

Methodist Church in Opelika, she is married to Robert Patton, a physician associated with Internal Medicine Associates, P. C. They have three sons and four grandchildren.



Kathryn Lillethun

Ms. Kathryn Lillethun was appointed to fill the unexpired at-large term of the late Frank Lewis who served from Troup County. In 1973 she enlisted in the U.S. Air Force as an aircraft radio maintenance technician and reached the rank of Sergeant before being commissioned as a USAF 2nd Lieutenant. During her Air Force career, she worked at both field and headquarters and Depot levels in the areas of Munitions Maintenance and

(Continued on page four)

SESSIONS INTRODUCES LEGISLATION

(Continued from page one)

"I am pleased to introduce this bill to commission a study regarding the feasibility of designating the Chattahoochee Trace corridor as a National Heritage Area," Sessions said. "It is indeed a special region that deserves recognition. Establishing the Chattahoochee Trace National Heritage Area would help protect the natural and cultural resources in the area so that they can be enjoyed by future generations."

The Historic Chattahoochee Commission (HCC) was established in 1970 and is responsible for tourism and preservation in the bi-state area.

Doug Purcell, Executive Director of the HCC, said, "The passage of the Chattahoochee Trace National Heritage Corridor Study Act bill will have a tremendous impact on the future of the 18-county bi-state area served by the Historic Chattahoochee Commission. Once completed, the study will clearly show that the Chattahoochee Trace region meets National Heritage Area Criteria as set forth by the National Park Service. The actual National Heritage Area designation will, over time, be a positive economic force for change in the region. This designation will be a major factor in improving the quality of life for many thousands of people who live along the lower Chattahoochee River in Alabama and Georgia."

Senator Richard Shelby (R-AL), Senator Saxby Chambliss (R-GA) and Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA) are co-sponsors of this bill.

NEWSLETTER

The Historic Chattahoochee Commission (HCC), an agency of the states of Alabama and Georgia, is involved in the promotion of tourism and historic preservation throughout the lower Chattahoochee Valley.

Chattahoochee Tracings is published quarterly and is free to interested citizens. Requests for the newsletters and changes of address should be directed to HCC, P.O. Box 33, Eufaula, Alabama 36072-0033. (334) 687-9755 or P.O. Box 942, LaGrange, Georgia 30241, (706) 845-8440, e-mail hcc3@earthlink.net, Web Page www.hcc-al-ga.org. 1-877-766-2443.

OFFICERS

- LaVerne Wright Chairman
- Lamar Powers Vice Chairman
- Deborah P. Shaw Secretary/Treasurer
- Douglas C. Purcell Executive Director



GUEST COLUMN

GPS Marks the Spot

By Victor Cross
President, Phenix City-Russell County Chamber of Commerce



Victor Cross

Phenix City/Russell County, Alabama is rich in history. At the present time there are 40 historic markers situated all over the City and County. This is significant because historic markers that explain the importance

of an historic site will draw tourists from far and wide to our area.

Tourists visiting historic sites visit, stay in our hotels, eat in our restaurants and leave a great deal of money in our local economy. The markers range from the site of the "Battle of Girard" to the "U.S. Indian Agency of Benjamin Hawkins". This article is designed to highlight the most recent markers that have been erected.

The Tie-Snake: The Creek Indians believed this section of the river was inhabited by a giant Tie-Snake, a mythical monster that snared the unwary and dragged them down into the watery underworld...

Ancient Fisheries: To the native people of the Chattahoochee River Valley, the Creek or the Muskogulgi Indians, the shoals of the river

were a source of recreation and food...

Confederates Set Fire To Lower Bridge:

Early in the afternoon of April 16, 1865 the first major act in the Battle of Girard-Columbus took place...

Six Indians Hanged: In November, 1836 six Creek Indians were hanged near this spot for their role in a last desperate uprising against the frontier of whites of Georgia and Alabama...

Red Hill Batteries: On April 16, 1865 the batteries of Confederate Major James Fleming Waddell of Seale, Alabama were positioned on the crest of this hill...

The Fight at the Bridge: At around 9:00 p.m. on Easter Sunday, 1865, the Battle of Girard-Columbus neared its end in a terrible melee at the old 14th Street Bridge, at the time a completely enclosed wooden span...

Union Night Attack Down Summerville Road: Confederate Captain Nat Clanton's battery sat astride Summerville Road on April 16, 1865 when Union forces launched a three-fisted night attack from northwest of this position...

Coweta Tallahassee: One of the founding or "mother" towns of the Lower Creeks, Coweta

Tallahassee, located on the Chattahoochee River to the east, was a red or war town...

U.S. Indian Agency of Benjamin Hawkins: For several years after he was made Principal Agent to the Indians South of the Ohio in 1796, Benjamin Hawkins, friend of George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, located his agency to the Lower Creeks at Coweta Tallahassee...

Coweta Town: Coweta Town, located east of this marker on the bank of the Chattahoochee River, is sometimes called New or Upper Coweta to distinguish it from its predecessor, Coweta Tallahassee, down river...

To increase the influx of tourists to our area a program is being developed to make the tourists' visit more efficient and more effective and to allow them to stay longer and see more. Working with Mark Lupo and his brother, an effort is underway to pinpoint each historic marker using a hand held GPS system which, when placed in the proper format, will have the ability to guide the tourist directly to each site.

Please take a moment and visit Mark's website, www.OurEcho.com. When this process is complete it will be available on this site.

PURCELL ATTENDS CEO BREAKFAST WITH STEVE FORBES AND GOVERNOR BOB RILEY

Historic Chattahoochee Commission executive director Doug Purcell was one of approximately 55 economic development and tourism leaders from throughout the State of Alabama who attended a CEO Breakfast in Birmingham recently to discuss Alabama's economic development and tourism opportunities with Steve Forbes, President and CEO of Forbes LLC and Editor-in Chief of Forbes Magazine. The meeting was hosted by Governor Bob Riley, Neal Wade, Director of the Alabama Development Office and Lee Sentell, Director of the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel. During the breakfast Forbes offered his observations on world affairs and the economy.

In cooperation with Governor Bob Riley, Forbes magazine will produce The Alabama

Advantage, a special advertising section appearing in the May 7, 2007 issue of Forbes North America and Forbes Asia. Sponsors of the ad section will help generate free text for the State to make its case to continue to attract new jobs and investments. The special advertising section will reach 4.7 million executive decision makers, active investors and influential customers. These "prospects" will, in turn, direct business investment, quality workers and tourism activity to Alabama. Governor Riley believes that the special section will "...help the world's business leaders learn about the dramatic economic revolution in Alabama" which in turn will "...help continue fueling our growing economy". The tourism component of this economic revolution is a direct result of the

work of Lee Sentell and his very capable staff. During his tenure, Alabama tourism has seen dramatic growth in many areas. In 2005, the most recent year for which information is available, travelers spent over \$7.6 billion in Alabama.



L-R: Steve Forbes, Doug Purcell, Governor Bob Riley

TOURISM AND PRESERVATION NEWS

David Ray, a native of Mobile, Alabama, joined the Alabama Historical Commission staff on October 2nd as the National Register Coordinator. Ray replaces Christy Anderson who is now employed by the City of Montgomery. Ray, who holds a master's in historic preservation from the University of Georgia, worked for a private civil engineering company conducting Section 106 environmental review primarily for road projects. "Having spent the last ten years in Georgia, I am very excited to be back in Alabama," said Ray, who grew up in Mobile's Oakleigh Historic District.

Business and government leaders have launched a campaign to extend Interstate 185 from Columbus, Georgia to Monticello, Florida, a move they say will generate jobs and economic growth in rural southwestern Georgia and relieve crowding on Interstate 75. Officials of the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a meeting of city and county officials on December 12th to discuss the proposal. With enough support, the officials plan on presenting a resolution to state lawmakers and to the Georgia Department of Transportation, which could use federal highway funds to finance the project. "From the preliminary discussions we've had so far, everyone's excited

about the possibilities," said Clifford Porter, the chamber's director of governmental affairs. Former Columbus Mayor Bob Poydasheff said extending 185 south "would be excellent. Anything that would facilitate easy communication links, such as roads, will be of great benefit to Columbus and tie into GA Highway 520. That would provide easy access to businesses in Columbus, providing a much faster road network to move goods and services." Poyadesheff said it would also increase the regional impact of Columbus, especially in retail and restaurants. Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce President F. Michael Gaymon called transportation "a vital link." From Columbus to Albany, the proposed 200-mile interstate extension would follow the path of existing State Route 520, also known as Corridor Z. Then it would follow another four-lane highway, U.S. Route 19, through Camilla, Pelham and Thomasville and connect with Interstate 10 in Jefferson County, Florida.

Construction has been completed on Landmark Park's new "Angelia and Steve Stokes Activity Barn", located in the back field near "The Barnyard" playground. The 8,000 square-foot building is the perfect location for groups looking for a down-home atmosphere to host

wedding receptions, church picnics, Christmas parties, family reunions, graduation parties and other large gatherings. The building was completed just in time for Landmark Park's annual membership dinner in January. William Holman notes that "We are already booking events for the coming year, so don't delay in making your reservations." For more information about booking the Activity Barn for your event, contact the park office at (334) 794-3452.

The Troup County Historical Society and Archives (TCHS-A) recently learned that the Archives will receive a grant of \$75,000 from the National Historical Records and Publications Commission (NHPRC) to digitize 19th century Troup County court and county records. Once digitized, the records will be added to the website of the Digital Library of Georgia (DLG). This grant is part of a pilot project by NHPRC to fund archival digitization projects. The grant will become official only after the U. S. Congress passes its 2006-2007 spending bills. These Troup County records were first organized in 1985-86 as part of a grant from NHPRC which was awarded soon after the Archives opened. All of the materials processed in the 1985-86 grant and the current project were saved from the Troup County Courthouse during the devastating November 5, 1936 fire. Two women died in the fire, but still local citizens organized themselves into bucket brigades of sorts and passed historical documents from the burning building to safety. During the 1980s grant, records formerly in boxes marked simply "old cases" and in no order were reorganized and put into chronological order. A detailed finding aid was produced which gives folder level control over the records. The *Digitizing County Records* project has several purposes.

- 1) The records will be of interest to a variety of researchers investigating a broad range of topics.
- 2) Digitizing the records will allow the Troup County Historical Society and Archives to take advantage of modern technology and make an important advance in our ability to serve researchers.
- 3) Researchers will gain easy online access to records dealing with many different nineteenth century historical top-

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

(Continued from page two)

Logistics. She retired as a USAF Lieutenant Colonel in 1992. After retirement, she has worked as an art instructor in drawing and watercolor at Bainbridge College. She also finds time to volunteer at the public library and assists with genealogy and Georgia history collection development, research requests, inventory and some technology based work. Ms. Lillethun is a member of the Decatur County Historical Society having served as a board member for two years, secretary for three years and is in the sixth year of her term as president.

Mrs. Linda Straub was appointed to fill the unexpired Harris County term of Becky Champion. In Columbus, she served for two years with Neighborhood Planning and was a staff assistant to the Board of Historic and



Linda Straub

Architectural Review. She was Planning Director in Troup County for ten years and Harris County Planner for two years. Currently she serves as a consultant, primarily for National Register of Historic Places applications. She is a charter member of the Harris County Chamber of Commerce and the Harris County Trust for Historic Preservation. Mrs. Straub received a B.A., in the History of Art from Cornell University and a Masters in Urban Planning from the University of Colorado, Denver. She and her husband, Jim, live in an 1880's farmhouse in rural Harris County.

TOURISM & PRESERVATION NEWS

ics. Staff at the Troup County Archives, and at the Digital Library of Georgia, including Archives' Director Kaye L. Minchew and DLG Director Dr. Toby Graham, are excited about joining together on a new project to digitize nineteenth century Troup County government records. The project will be a national model showing how local government records can be digitized and how the Internet can allow county and city governments and small local historical societies to better serve a wide variety of researchers.

Alabama Senator Ted Little wants his District 27 residents to know state government is not a closed-door establishment. To emphasize that point, Little stopped by the Russell County Courthouse in Phenix City on January 19th to hand out more than \$75,000 worth of grant money to five local agencies. "Sometimes



Alabama Senator Ted Little visits Phenix City to award grant money to local agencies

people get a feeling that government is going to do whatever they want to do, irrespective of the thinking of the people," Little said. "To me this is a way that we try to gradually show that the government wants to respond to the needs of the people." During the presentation, it was announced that the Russell County Historical Commission will receive a \$50,000 grant through the Historic Chattahoochee Commission to benefit the Fort Mitchell Restoration Project. Historic Fort Mitchell, located about 10 miles south of Phenix City, was the site of Indian removal activities in the mid-1830s. The Russell County Historical Commission has completed a replica of the fort stockade and work is near completion on an interpretive center at the facility. Little's Senatorial District includes Russell, Lee and Tallapoosa Counties.

Kim Cushman has been named as the manager of the state-run Little White House Historic Site in Warm Springs effective January 1st. Born in California, she was raised in Cordele, Georgia and worked five years in special events at Callaway Gardens and several years for the Troup County Parks and Recreation Department in the 1980s. She received an associate's degree in recreation from Young Harris College and a bachelor's degree in recreation from the University of Georgia in 1984. She also was cast coordinator for children in the opening and closing ceremonies at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta. She worked in Atlanta for three years before joining Georgia Parks and Historic Sites a year ago, and has since undergone training to become a manager. "This is coming home for me - an incredible opportunity," she said. Cushman succeeds Frankie Mewborn, who on January 1st became regional manager of Parks and Historic Sites Region 3. That area extends from Augusta to Macon to Savannah.

The Auburn Heritage Association and the Historic Chattahoochee Commission dedicated the Cullars Rotation historical marker on November 3, 2006 in Auburn. The Cullars Rotation is the oldest, continuous soil fertility study in the South and the second oldest cotton study in the world. It was started in 1911 by the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station on the farm of J. A. Cullars and John P. Alvis. In 1938, the "Alvis Field" was sold to Alabama Polytechnic Institute which



Agronomy Professor Charles Mitchell of the AU College of Agriculture and Mary Norman of the Auburn Heritage Association unveiled a marker designating the Alabama Agricultural Research Station's 95-year-old Cullars Rotation Site behind the Jule Collins Smith Museum as an important Auburn University landmark.

became Auburn University in 1960. The experiment consists of 14 soil fertility variables in three blocks that are rotated with cotton followed by a winter legume, corn followed by wheat, and soybeans planted after wheat. The Cullars Rotation site was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on April 19, 2003. Participating in the marker dedication were Dr. Richard Guthrie, Dean, College of Agriculture at Auburn University; Dr. Charles Mitchell, Professor of Agronomy and Soils at Auburn University; Doug Purcell, Executive Director, Historic Chattahoochee Commission; Mrs. Mary Norman, President, Auburn Heritage Association; and Dr. Ed Richardson, President of Auburn University.

The Miami-based Knight Foundation, which has a history of being quite generous to Columbus projects, announced that it will be giving \$1 million to help build the new \$85 million National Infantry Museum near Fort Benning. Beverly Blake, a program director for the Knight Foundation, presented the check to National Infantry Foundation Chairman Jerry White on December 15th at the World War II Company Street Chapel on museum property off of South Lumpkin Road. While the check may be made out to the Infantry Foundation, it's clear that the Knight grant will be used not simply to build the new museum, but to revitalize south Columbus as well. "We believe the impact of the museum on south Columbus will be enormous," said Knight Foundation President Alberto Ibarguen. "The grant is significantly more than any we've given to Columbus in the past. We believe it will transform that part of town." White, a former Fort Benning commander, agreed. "The Knight Foundation doesn't usually contribute to capital campaign such as ours. But when they learned the economic impact the museum will have, they were impressed enough to give us a million dollars." Since 1974, the foundation has awarded \$18.5 million in grants to various Columbus projects. The latest contribution pushes the museum campaign past the \$60 million mark. General White points to an economic development study by Columbus

(Continued on page six)

TOURISM AND PRESERVATION NEWS

(Continued from page Five)

State University that predicts a \$50 million impact on the area as well as a 500-job growth. Approximately 400,000 people are expected to visit the museum each year after it opens to the public in March 2008. Many of them will be family members attending weekly graduations on post. The Knight Foundation is a private, independent organization. With assets exceeding \$2 billion, it is a major supporter of journalism programs in the United States and abroad, and supports programs that build community in the 26 U. S. cities and towns where the Knight brothers had newspapers.

After a year of construction, the 150-room lodge at The Lodge and Spa at Callaway Gardens officially opened on November 22nd. The lodge and spa are expected to generate 278 jobs, including 183 inside Callaway Gardens and 95 outside. Callaway Gardens' new president, C. Robert McEleney, observed how the lodge, which rises five stories on one end and four stories on the other, was designed and built to blend into and complement the environment. The spa is on the ground floor. The lodge features nine comfortable suites, including hospitality suites that can be linked for a large party. Suites carry such names as Cardinal, Georgia, Red Wing, Quail and Presidential and their designs complement the names. Every room opens onto a patio or balcony with a view of the nearby forest and of outdoor amenities below. While the lodge is now ready for occupancy, substantial work has been underway on the spa, which is scheduled to open in mid-to late February, outdoor facilities and grounds. Those include an eight-foot-wide fireplace; a heated, year-round outdoor swimming pool with 1,700-square-feet of surface area; an eight-foot-high fountain at the Overlook Terrace outside the lodge; plantings of shrubbery, trees and flowers; and the Cabana Bar and Grill near the pool. The lodge and spa are part of \$30 million in improvements that include renovation of cottages and 100 rooms of the Mountain Creek Inn. Another 100 inn rooms are to be renovated next year. The 2007 lodge rates are

\$209 weekday to \$269 weekend during the off season, and \$269 weekday to \$329 weekend for high season. To book a room in the lodge, call 1-800-CALLAWAY or go online at www.callawaygardens.com.

As part of the Preserve America grant and the museum project, Museum on Main is seeking donations of historic wheels. "Wheels of Change" is the theme for the permanent exhibit gallery in LaGrange, Georgia. The museum is seeking old wheels: wheels from wagons, machinery, locomotives, grinding stones, machinery gears, saw blades, steering wheels and other wheels once used in everyday life. If you would like for your historic wheels to become part of history at Museum on Main, please bring your wheels to the Troup County Archives at 136 Main Street in LaGrange or call (706) 884-1828.

The Port Columbus Civil War Naval Museum in Columbus, Georgia recently purchased a collection of documents that had belonged to John Julius Guthrie, the second commanding officer of the C.S.S. *Chattahoochee*. A thirty-foot section of the stern, of this ship, is on display at the museum. The collection of memorabilia from Guthrie was made available to Port Columbus following the recent deaths of both grandson John Julius Guthrie III and his daughter. The cost was \$14,000 with funds coming from donations of several benefactors, primarily the Woodruff Foundation. Along with letters are items such as a sword with Guthrie's name and the year 1861 engraved on the handle, boot socks, a ship's log, a journal and a stick made of wood from the Ironclad Merrimac. There's also a sea chest, which has been the home of the material for years. Bob Holcombe, former director of Port Columbus, had formed a friendship with John Guthrie III back in the 1980s and had heard about the collection. That friendship played a part in the items eventually coming to Port Columbus. "It would be a great addition to any museum," said Port Columbus Executive Director Bruce Smith. "It is especially meaningful to us since we have some of the Chattahoochee here."

Auburn Heritage Association President, Mary Norman, recently presented a \$1,000 check to Claud Brown, President of the Salem-Shotwell Covered Bridge Project in Opelika for restoration of the bridge. The bridge was recovered from the Wacoochee Creek in June 2004, near Salem, and is being restored by a joint effort of the Kiwanis Club and the City of Opelika at the Municipal Park across Rocky Brook Branch. "The Auburn Heritage Association is proud to participate in this historic restoration of a very important part of our area's rich history. There are only 12 covered bridges left in the State of Alabama and this one that folded into the Wacoochee Creek, when a tree fell on it, was determined very restorable," said Norman. The bridge was retrieved out of the creek with the assistance of the Lee County Commission and the Lee County Historical Society and is housed in the old Lowe's building until the new infrastructure for the bridge can be built at Rocky Brook. Otto Pols built the original bridge in 1900, with large cross member timbers of hardwood and oak pegs and is a fine example of most covered bridges built in Alabama. This has really been a joint effort of all the local governments and historical organizations in Lee County, to protect one of its valuable cultural resources, and the last of the covered bridges in this area.

The Eufaula Historic Preservation Commission is considering a proposal to demolish the historic Bluff City Inn, Odd Fellows Lodge and several other buildings for a proposed "replica" of the Inn to be built by developer William Hitson of Atlanta. The 46,000 square foot building will be four stores in height and will have retail space on the first floor, 15 office suites on the second floor and 30 hotel suites on both the third and fourth floors. A 150,000 square foot parking garage will be part of the project which is estimated to cost \$9 million. Mr. Hitson would like to begin construction within the next six months. Lead architect for the project is Frank Mixon of Eufaula. The Bluff City Inn and Odd Fellows Lodge buildings were both constructed in 1885 and are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

2006 - 2007 MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

(Listing date: November 29, 2006 – February 15, 2007)

RENEWALS

- Jeanette Baxley
- Quitman County Commission
- Columbus State University Library
- JB & Barbara Short
- Henry & Mary Gray
- Ed & Sidney Wilson
- Alice Bowsher
- Stan Malkemus
- Virginia T. (Jenny) Copeland
- Roy D. Moultrie
- Caitlin Money Cauthen
- Johnathon Towns Powell
- William & Tammi Holman
- Andy & Pam Moye
- Chambers County Library
- Rep. William M. Beasley
- Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr.
- Troup County Archives
- Mr. & Mrs. Joel P. Smith
- Bruce & Jody Kearley
- The Image Agency
- David Seibert
- John & Lou Martin
- Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society
- David & Michele Boyette
- Roselyn Holloway
- Auburn-Opelika CVB
- Compass Bank
- Sara & W. B. Singer
- Early County Commission
- Eugenie Tyree
- Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth E. Slay
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert MacElvain
- Dean S. Wall
- G. Sidney Waits
- Hugh & Brenda Broome

- Bob & Sally Andrews
- Dave & Dallas Jankowski
- Jean O. Turn
- Larry & Rebecca French
- Frank & Anne Turner
- Dothan Area CVB
- Thomasville-Thomas County CVB
- Col. Albert F. Simpson
- John & Judith Armstrong
- Mr. & Mrs. Albert Killian
- Beasley Pharmacy, Inc.
- Gayle & Ron Thomas
- Branko Medenica
- Congressman Sanford Bishop
- Tommy & Debbie Boswell
- Bainbridge-Decatur County C of C
- Shay & Barbara Ingle
- Shelly S. Jakes
- Bob Scarborough
- Ralph Nolin
- Carl Summers, Jr.
- Maple Hill Gardens & Guest House
- James & Becky Fendley
- University of Georgia Library
- Gloria R. Franklin
- Susan Gristina
- Oline M. Reynolds
- Marty Olliff
- Susan & Terry Bishop
- Carole Rutland
- Alice Budge
- Steve Sharp

NEW MEMBERSHIPS

- Southeast Alabama RPDC
- Doug & Mary Winkleblack
- Mr. & Mrs. Ray Anderson
- Georgia Humanities Council

- Sue Winkleblack
- Mrs. Frances W. Dubose
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Dixon
- Early County Historical Society
- Rep. & Mrs. Vance C. Smith, Jr.
- Bob & Barbara Smith
- Pine Mountain Tourism Association
- City of Dothan, Alabama
- Frank T. Schnell
- Comfort Inn of Dothan, Alabama
- Richard Harry Hart
- Dothan Landmarks Foundation
- City of Colquitt, Georgia
- Mr. & Mrs. Owen L. Riley
- Gerald C. Becham
- Ponder Enterprises, Inc.
- JJ Jaxon Company
- City of Ozark, Alabama
- Russell County Historical Commission
- Max & Karan Pittman
- Mr. & Mrs. Edward Sprouse
- Randolph County Commission
- Alabama Power Company
- Lakepoint Resort State Park
- Stanley Jones
- Rev. T. Grant Parker, Sr.
- National Civil War Naval Museum at Port Columbus
- Opelika Historical Preservation Society
- Mr. & Mrs. Edward W. Neal
- James C. Whatley, Jr.
- Farmers State Bank
- Peggy Stelpflug
- Eufaula-Barbour County Chamber of Commerce
- Jerry & Anna Cleveland

- Headland Chamber of Commerce
- Sandra A. Mathis Family
- Steve Elliott
- Shoterville's Old Store
- Abbeville Milling Company
- John Simmons
- Max & Kathy Mobley
- Ron Messer
- Margaret Kirkland
- Michael Cody
- Headland National Bank
- Dr. James Vann
- Mrs. Lawrence Bowden
- Kathleen M. Capps

SPECIAL GIFTS

- Steve Sharp
- Carole Rutland
- Steve Elliott
- Edwina Ward
- Oline Reynolds
- Susan Gristina
- James & Becky Fendley
- Bob Scarborough
- Shelly S. Jakes
- Tommy & Debbie Boswell
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Dixon
- Branko Medenica
- Richard Harry Hart
- David Seibert
- The Image Agency
- Kenneth J. Thomas, Jr.
- Rep. William M. Beasley
- Andy & Pam Moye
- James C. Whatley, Jr.
- Stan Malkemus
- Peggy Stelpflug
- Jerry & Anna Cleveland
- Jeanette Baxley

VISITATION STATISTICS SHOW IMPROVING NUMBERS

(Continued from page two)

this gain is tempered by the fact that visitation data was missing in 2005 during the months of April, May, June and July. The largest decrease in attendance was at FDR State Park where visitation was down 30.58%. But the Park's visitation figures were also skewed by missing counters and declining school group visits. Last year the largest decrease was at Providence Canyon State Park where visitation was down by 19.7%. In 2005 Shorter Mansion has the largest increase with 21.5% more visitors than the previous year.

Small visitor decreases were reported at George T. Bagby State Park (-.01%); Little White House (-3.46%); Westville (-8.71%) and Lake George W. Andrews (-9.24%). Moderate to large visitation decreases occurred at Port Columbus Civil War Naval Museum (-17%); Lakepoint Resort State Park (-17.9%); The Columbus Museum (-20.8%); Providence Canyon State Park (-24.63%); and FDR State Park (-30.58%). Decreases at Lakepoint Resort State Park are attributed to pending renovation work while Port Columbus changed the way visitors were calculated. The Columbus

Museum showed a total visitor impact of 78,147 when visitors to the Museum's traveling exhibitions (nationwide) are factored in with the visitors to programs and events on site.

After the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge, Fendall Hall has the highest gain at 28.59%. Other increases included: Landmark Park (+21.74%); Lake Eufaula/Walter F. George (+15.64%); Kolomoki Mounds State Park (+13.52%); U. S. Army Aviation Museum (+8.54%); Lake Seminole (+7.72%); West Point Lake (+4.12%); Florence Marina State Park (+2.50%); and Shorter Mansion (+1.93%). Visitor increases at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum were attributed to their 50th anniversary celebration and the Christmas Tour of Homes in Eufaula added to Shorter Mansion's numbers for 2006.

Tourism expenditures continued to increase during 2005 in Alabama (\$7.6 billion—up 4% over 2004) and in Georgia (\$28 billion—up 7.7% over 2004). According to Purcell, tourism is the number two industry in Alabama and Georgia and the third largest retail industry in the United States. In 2005 and esti-

mated \$633 billion was recorded in tourism expenditures in the United States—an increase of \$40 billion or about 6.3% over the previous year. The Chattahoochee Trace region of Alabama and Georgia compared favorably with that trend showing an 8% increase in visitation at selected tourism sites.

Travel industry forecasts indicate that state tourism expenditures will continue to grow as the travel industry moves to overtake food stores and becomes the second largest retail or service industry in the next few years. The Travel Industry Association of America notes that travel and tourism generates \$1.3 trillion in economic activity in the United States every year. That equates to \$3.4 billion a day, \$148 million an hour, \$2.4 million a minute and \$40,000 a second. The Chattahoochee Trace region played a small but significant role in this industry growth in Alabama and Georgia during 2005 and will continue to do so in the future. 2006 tourism statistics for Alabama and Georgia will be released later this year.



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