



The Hencart Road Review

An Update From Thompson's Books of Southeast Georgia

Volume I, Issue 3

Spring 2006

Make a Note:

- April is Confederate History and Education Month in Georgia
- New Books in Catalogue on pg. 4-5.
- Tickets for "Tales from the Altamaha" are on sale now. Call 912-523-6445.
- GSU Midway Slavery Exhibit runs through May 7th.

Tony Thompson
Editor-Publisher of
The Hencart Road Review

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Second Annual Performances of "Tales From the Altamaha" to run from April 27-May 6

The 2006 Tales From the Altamaha is set to debut on April 27th at 7 p.m. at the Blue Marquee Theater in Lyons, Ga. This is the second year of the play, which is based on the historic essays of Col. T. Ross Sharpe. The play will also be performed on Friday April 28th, Saturday April 29th (matinee & evening), Tuesday May 2nd, Thursday May 4th, Friday May 5th and Saturday May 6th (matinee & evening). For ticket information call Joy Lewis of the Lyons Better Hometown Program at 912-526-6445.

Last year's play was a huge success with all shows be-

ing sold out. Each year features new stories from Col. Sharpe's essays. Last year's production included scenes based on essays titled "The Altamaha", "Life on the River", "Mullet House", "Deep River", "Georgia Girl", "Swamp Root Emulsion", "Granny's Home Remedies", "Down to the River to Pray", and "King Cotton".

This year's production promises to be just as much fun as last year's with all new stories and scenes. The venue is the beautifully renovated Blue Marquee Theater, which is a classic old style theater. It has been

artfully refurbished to maintain former charm that takes visitors back to a simpler time while adding modern conveniences and comforts. Every seat offers a good view of the play. Lovers of Altamaha area history will be sure to enjoy this year's production.

Readers are also reminded that the Altamaha Heritage Center continues to solicit members and financial support for the Altamaha Heritage Museum in Lyons. For more information write to Altamaha Heritage Center at P.O. Box 1085 Lyons, Ga. 30436 or call Fred Brogdon at 912-526-6061.

Exhibit at GSU Museum "Midway between Slavery and Self-Sufficiency 1860-1875" An Interview with Curator Dr. Peggy Hargis

What: Historical Exhibit on slaves at Midway, Ga.

When: Runs through May 7th Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 a. m.-5 p.m., Sat. & Sun. 2 p. m.-5 p.m.

Where: Georgia Southern Museum on Sweetheart Circle in Statesboro, Ga.

Who: Dr. Peggy Hargis

I. Your exhibit advises visitors that their "impressions may not reflect life as it was." You explain that

whites and slaves worshiped together, that slaves accumulated and inherited property and that slaves lived and labored on plantations where no white person resided. Did you expect viewers or students to be surprised by these facts, and if so, why?

My exhibit was designed to reach a broad spectrum of people - young school chil-

dren, college students, and the public. I think that many children and adults have a one-dimensional view of slavery -- one in which slaves labored in the fields from sun-up to sun-down. That depiction is correct for much of the South but the system of slave management that developed in the Lowcountry differed from upcountry (Continued on pg. 2)

Midway Slavery Exhibit (Continued from front page.)

slavery in significant ways. An oversimplified version of slavery, one where slaves are simply represented as "beasts of burden" strips them of their humanity. Slaves were people, who toiled, loved, worshiped, grieved, rejoiced, and laughed. I wanted visitors to get a sense of the humanity which managed to survive an inhumane institution.

2. Your exhibit explains that some slaves attended the Midway church but others did not. How does your research account for those who did not attend? Why didn't church-going slaveholders force all their slaves to attend church?



Tasks were completed by noon to 2 p.m.

Let me begin with a brief sketch. Liberty County, Georgia was settled by white Congregationalists who owned large plantations as well large numbers of slaves. Liberty's planters grew about equal amounts of rice and long-staple cotton on their plantations and they worked their slaves by assigning them tasks, which slaves usually completed around 2 o'clock in the afternoon. Masters encouraged slaves to grow and sell their own crops and permitted them to accumulate and bequeath property. The task system and informal economies which grew out of tasking meant that masters didn't have to provide as much food and other necessities as they would have otherwise. Slave owners typically permitted their slaves to be taught an

oral religious education and slaves were sometimes hired as preachers in the churches which had slave and white members. Slaves, however, retained remnants of religious beliefs (such as the ring shout and river baptism) and traditions (such as basket making and storytelling) that their ancestors had brought from Africa. In the slave community, old beliefs and traditions mingled with puritan teachings and Christian codes.

Midway Congregational Church was the cornerstone of religious life in the county, although it was not on the only church that slaves could join. Nevertheless, joining the church was difficult. An aspiring member had to "prove" him or herself worthy of membership. Potential members were examined by a (Continued on page 7.)

Charlie Wildes 1907-2006 /Gene Barber 1935-2005

Tattnall genealogist and author

Charlie Wildes died 8 Jan 2006 at the age of 98-1/2. He died in the house he was born in on 1 June 1907. Wildes was a farmer, a traveling salesman and a great history buff. He authored three classic books: *The History of Cedar Creek Primitive Baptist Church*, *The Bridger Jones II Family*, and *Once Upon a Time in Tattnall County, Georgia*. Wildes was descended from two Revolutionary soldiers: Bridger Jones I (1759-1819) and Henry Holland (1757-1852). Wildes resided in the Hillview community of Claxton, Georgia. Wildes was a beloved friend, historian and the patriarch of a large family which includes 64 living descendants. Several hundred mourners attended his funeral at Cedar Creek Primitive Baptist church on 10 Jan 2006. He was the son of the late James Harley and Martha Jones Wildes. He was preceded in death by his wife of 67 years Edith Boyette Wildes, his son Martin T. Wildes and son in law Benjie Smith. Survivors include sons Farrell Wildes of Ringold, Ga., Jay Wildes of Hillview community, Vann Wildes of Hoschton,

Ga., daughters Norma Wildes and Mary W. Sapp of Statesboro, Ga., Carolyn W. Smith of Reidsville, Ga., Martha W. Lacy of Conroe, Tx., Faye W. Kennedy and Kaye Wildes of Metter, Ga., 17 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren as sisters-in-law Dera B. Bicaise of Charleston, S.C., and Tycile B. Williamson of Lyons, Ga.

Information above excerpted from Jonesiana Newsletter by Ted E. Lewis, Winter 2006.

Florida artist, historian, writer and orchid grower Gene Barber passed away on 21 April 2005 one month short of his 70th birthday. Barber was a native of Macclenny, in Baker County, Fla. Barber's hometown is located only 5 miles from the Georgia line below the southernmost tip of the St. Mary's river. His writings often touched on the historical connections of his area to the Altamaha River basin. One of his nota-

ble contributions to Tattnall county area history was his profile of Rev. Wilson Conner who led the Tattnall-Montgomery area militia into battle against the Spanish in 1812 at Fernandina and Amelia Island. Barber was active in the Baker County Historical Society and was president of the Jacksonville, Fla. Orchid Society. He was an accomplished artist and art instructor. He was the

son of the late William M. "Dub" and Pearle Chesser Barber. He attended Baker County public schools and served in the Army before enrolling at the University of Florida where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Design. He is survived by Uncle and Aunt Joe and Evelyn Barber and Aunt Elene Barber all of Macclenny, Fla., and numerous cousins. His memorial service was held on 23 April 2005 at Ferriera Chapel in Macclenny under the direction of Pastor Eddie Griffis of Raiford Road Church

Wildes was the author of *Once Upon A Time in Tattnall County*

Governor Josiah Tattnall Signed Early Livestock Law

In 1801, Governor Josiah Tattnall signed into law one of the early attempts to deal with stray livestock, then called "estrays".

The law stated, "That it shall and may be lawful for any person upon his own freehold, or other person having charge of such freehold in the absence of the owner thereof, and not elsewhere to take up all Estrays, whether horse, mare, colt, filly, ass, mule, neat cattle, sheep, goat or hog, that may be found straying away from their owners; and every person taking up Estrays as above, shall within ten days, in case such Estrays have been broke to service, take or drive it or them before a Justice of the Peace in the County,



Free ranging livestock was a long Ga. tradition.

whose duty it shall be, and he is hereby required to take down in writing a particular description of the marks, natural and artificial, brands, stature, age and colour of such Estray or Estrays, and immediately to issue his warrant to two or more freeholders of the vicinage commanding them, having been first duly sworn thereto, well and truly to appraise or ascertain the value of such

Estray, which appraisal or valuation and description as above, together with the name of the taker up and the place of his abode, the said Justice shall within ten days thereafter, transmit to the Clerk of the Inferior Court of

said County, taking special care that the person or persons taking up such Estray, do solemnly swear or affirm, that he or they have not altered or caused to be altered the marks or brands of such Estray, and to the best of his or their knowledge and belief, such marks or brands have, or have not, (as the case may be) in anywise been altered, and that the owner to him or them is unknown."

Free-ranging livestock was a 150 year old tradition until the advent of state-maintained roads. Beginning in 1953 the State outlawed free-ranging with a law which declared that "No owner shall permit livestock to run at large on or stay upon the public roads of this State."

Book: Guns, Germs and Steel / Jared Diamond Reviewed by Tony Thompson

This best-selling book is popping up everywhere. Here's my take: Diamond outlines a grand unifying theory for the history of all human civilization. Most of his theory is based on the happenstance of geographic conditions. Unfortunately, he also implies that if you are a descendant of Europeans and still maintain any latent pride in your ancestral history, that pride is at best misguided and at worst, evidence of your inherent racism. Diamond combines enlightening history and intriguing insights with unpalatable concessions to political correct-

ness. At one point Diamond goes out of his way to defend the use of the word "engulfed" in reference to black migration in Africa. In this instance and throughout the book, he labors to assure readers that he is possessed of no bias towards non-Europeans, third-worlders or any of the "have-nots" of human civilization. He is not so kind toward the "haves". Diamond would lead us to believe that if circumstances had been different it might have been the Hottentots or Pygmies who became the first world explorers. With the same deft reasoning, he assures us that the

practitioners of cannibalism were driven to such acts by simple "protein deficiencies" in their diet. Religion is largely discounted as a positive influence on civilization. But it is blamed for a number of conquests, migrations and other "ills." Diamond's book is probably already required reading on most college campuses, especially in the social science departments. Liberal revisionists and their sycophants who all-too-often chant "hey hey, ho ho, Western Civ's got to go" will surely love this book. I call it a good book gone bad.

Need a Speaker for Your Historic or Civic Group?

During the past two years author Tony Thompson has spoken to members of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Huxford Genealogical Society, various County Historical Societies, Kiwanis Clubs and Rotary Clubs in the Altamaha and Wiregrass area. If your favorite



Thompson can tailor his talk for your favorite group

group needs a program, you might consider Thompson. He has programs on the early history of the Tattnall Court on the Ochopee River, the early Circuit Judges who served Tattnall and surrounding counties, a profile on Robert Raymond Reid—the namesake of Reidsville, Ga., Thompson genealogy of

the Tattnall-Bryan area, and his study of Georgia History textbooks from the past 100 years. He can also tailor his talk to meet the needs of your particular group. Email him at

tony@kinfolksacrosstheriver.com

Or Call 912-685-3347

Catalogue of Available Titles [Ga. Residents add 7% sales tax and add shipping at bottom of list.]

Regimental Histories

1. **A Soldier's Story of his Regiment** by Pvt. G.W. Nichols, written in 1898, reprinted in 2002. Rare Regimental history of the 61st Georgia Infantry CSA, written by a private, not a general. This regiment served under Stonewall Jackson, John B. Gordon, A.R. Lawton & Clement Evans. Has company rosters, individual details. Companies formed from Tattnall, Bulloch, Brooks, Montgomery, Quitman, Bibb, and Wilkes Counties. Among the top collectible books about the War Between the States and the South. You'll see it listed in the famous collection called "In Tall Cotton". Hardback 294 pages **\$42.50**
2. **The Gallant Little 7th: A history of the 7th Georgia Cavalry Regiment** By John W. Latty, 2004 New to the market. This is the author's second book and it is fabulously done Professionally researched, edited and hardbound, it is a handsome book that reads like a classic. If you have ancestors from Bryan County or nearby counties, it is highly probable that some of them served in this regiment. Complete with muster rolls and thorough index to help you find your ancestor. If we had a South Georgia Book of the Month Club, this would be a feature selection. (For that matter, so would all of these books.) Who knows if this book will make a second printing. Get your copy now to be sure. 250 pgs. hardback **\$30.00**
3. **Under the Southern Cross – Soldier Life with Gordon Bradwell and the Army of Northern Virginia** (31st Georgia Infantry) by Pharris Johnson. Excellent first person account of soldier life in the ANV, under the command of Gen. Robert E. Lee Hardback 272 pages 6 x 9 inches. **\$30.00**

Family Histories

1. **The Douglass Genealogy** compiled and researched by Mary Lois Forrester 1992 Hardback 6 x 9 traces origins of the south Georgia and Florida Douglass families starting with Revolutionary soldier Alexander Douglass of Chowan County, N.C. b. 1757 possibly in Scotland - died 1832. Douglas married Elizabeth Webb, daughter of Zecharian and Mary Willis Webb in Chowan County N.C. Their children were born in Montgomery County, Ga. and Burke County, Ga., and married into the Anderson, Hancock and Bowen families of Tattnall County, Ga. Other allied families include the Thompsons, Aldermans (Bulloch), Rimes (Bulloch), and Tillman . **\$30.00**
2. **This is Our Life- Anderson Families of Tattnall County**. Originally done in 1966 by James M. Anderson. Updated in 2002 by Laura A. Sweat and Allen Jesse Anderson. Card stock cover. 8 x11. Updated classic history about one of the most prolific families of Tattnall County. Includes History of Hopewell Methodist Church. 260 pgs. **\$25.00**
3. **Kinfolks Across the River-** A history of the Thompson families who settled along the Ogeechee, Canoochee, Ohooppee and Altamaha Rivers. by Gordon A. (Tony) Thompson 2002. Helpful to researchers of many Tattnall families. Maps, timelines, CSA history. 249 pgs, perfect bound **\$40.00**
4. **A Durrance—Durrence Family History From England to North Carolina to Wiregrass Ga.** By Evans county historian Dorothy Durrence Simmons, 2000. Fabulous history of the Durrence family. Traces origins of the Durrence family beginning with Samuel Durrence of England. Follows the influence of this large family patriarch from England to North Carolina and thence to the Durrences of Georgia and Florida. Allied families include Deloach, Smith, and Tippins. Loaded with documents, maps, plats, transcriptions and photos (including several color photos). An excellent family history with relevance to many allied families of Tattnall-Evans-Bulloch counties. Top-quality research by a foremost historian. Highly collectible book with top quality binding. Hardback 8.5 x 11, 138 pages plus appendixes and index. New Reduced Price! **\$25.00**
5. **Isham Walker Genealogy** by Mary Lois Forrester (New Listing) Lineage of Isham and Mary Carter Walker beginning with Isham Walker b. circa 1730 Colleton County, S. C. Children were Littleberry, Isham, Mary, Elizabeth, Ansel, Elisha, Joel and William. Traces migration from S.C. to Camden, Wayne, Liberty, Charlton, Ware, Glynn, Brantley, Appling, Pierce, and Lowndes counties in Georgia and on into Florida. Nice research, charts, family relationships. Spiral bound, paper back 8.5 x 11 photos 59 pgs. **\$15.00**
6. **The Family of Bridger and Rachel Barry Jones of Bulloch County Georgia and Some Affiliated Families** by Ted Evan Lewis 1999 Gateway Press, hardback 6x9 , 270 pgs. Plus 46 pg. maiden & married name cross index . Loaded with photos. First class history, excellent book. **\$40.00**

Local Histories

1. **Evans County and the Creation of Fort Stewart, Georgia** by Pharris Johnson Inspired by Dot Simmons' report on the topic, Johnson gives a complete overview of the history and effects of the Fort's creation. 103 pgs. Spiral bound 8x11 inches. **\$20.00**

2. **Houses of Heartpine** by Pharris Johnson . Excellent groundbreaking work on the antebellum architecture of Evans Co. Ga. 177 pgs. Perfect bound, 8 x11 inches **\$30.00**
3. **River to River History of Effingham County** by Betty Renfro. 8.5 x 11 inch hardback book covers the history of Effingham County with maps, photos, and documents from the beginning of the county to the modern era. Excellent county history book just published in 2005. 454 pages plus index **\$40.00**

Historical Court and Census Records

1. **Tattnall County Inferior Court Records 1805-1832** transcribed by Gordon A. (Tony) Thompson in 2003. This book has information on nearly all the early Tattnall pioneers, especially for the years before the first extant census (1820). A wealth of genealogical and historical data for Tattnall researchers. 194 pgs. Glossy cover, perfect bound, paper back. **\$25.00**
2. **The Tattnall County, Ga. Superior Court Records 1805-1832** by Gordon A. (Tony) Thompson Companion to Tattnall Inferior Court Records 1805-1832. Includes detailed index. Library quality reference book published through a grant from the R.J. Taylor Foundation. Includes statements of evidence for several Revolutionary Soldier pension applicants. Compiled records from when court was held at the lost village of Ohoopee Saw Mills before the county seat of Reidsville was created. 400 pgs. Hardback 6x9 inches **\$50.00**
3. **Candler County 1920 Census** Compiled and transcribed by Jay Clifton. Just published, this book is the first available bound copy of the 1920 Candler census. Features names and occupations of many of the county's early residents. Spiralbound **\$30.00**

Georgia History

1. **A History of Reconstruction in Georgia 1865-1872** This reprint of a 1916 UDC booklet begins with the quote: "He who is ignorant of what happened before he was born remains a child all his life." Perfect for students. 60 pages, cardstock & vinyl cover, spiral bound **\$7.00**
2. **Lamb in His Bosom** historical novel by Caroline Miller, with an afterword by Elizabeth Fox- Genovese. This 1934 Pulitzer Prize Winner for Literature was written by a Baxley native. This is her story about the people of the South Georgia piney woods before the War Between the States. This book was largely responsible for the discovery of the more famous book, *Gone With the Wind*. Though not as famous, THIS is a south Georgia story, of the people who did not have mansions or slave plantations but who were close to the land on the Georgia frontier. Handsomely bound, newly reprinted, and with an attractive dust cover. 357 pages hardback **\$30.00**
3. **It's Not What You Know: The Battle to Control How You Feel About History** by Gordon A. (Tony) Thompson 2004. There is a battle being waged for control of our history. This book shares my observations based on years as classroom teacher. Examines changes in Georgia History textbooks over the last 100 years, including differences in content, style and conflicts over how history is presented to students. Refutes popular revisionists James Loewen and Howard Zinn. Concise analysis of how revisionists dictate "feelings" over facts. 60 pgs. perfect bound **\$5.00**

Video

1. **Memorial Service for Pvt. John Thompson 4th Georgia Cavalry**. Video footage, edited, digitally enhanced of Thompson reunion and memorial service in Odum, Ga. 2002. Includes introduction, history, candid shots, reenactors in period dress and uniforms, credits, music, speeches and cannon firings. If you want to see what a Confederate Memorial Service looks like, or if you are planning one for your ancestor, you'll appreciate this one. DVD \$15.00 VHS video **\$10.00**

Ga. residents [only] add 7% sales tax to the total. Unless otherwise noted for individual books, Shipping Rates Are:
For orders totaling \$5 add \$1.50, over \$10.00 add \$2.50, over \$20.00 add \$5.00, over \$40.00 add \$7.50, over \$60 add \$10.00, over \$80 add \$12.50 **Over \$100- FREE SHIPPING**

Circle selections from the list above or list separately and mail to Tony Thompson 625 Dorothy St., Metter, Ga. 30439 or call 912-685-3347 Email: tony@kinfolksacrosstheriver.com

Most books ship within 48 hours via U.S. Postal Service Priority Mail (2-3 day delivery). In the event a title is on backorder it may take longer to arrive. In such cases you will be contacted via email, phone or postal mail.

Midway Slave Exhibit

Interview with Dr. Peggy Hargis

(Continued from page 2.)

select group of men who determined whether or not they would be able to join. Once admitted, a member (slave or free) who acted in an inappropriate manner was subject to punishment and expulsion. In short, church membership was a privilege and entry into the church required a moral commitment. Salvation, from the viewpoint of religious leaders, could not be forced.

As for those slaves who didn't convert -- I imagine they might articulate many of the same reasons people today give for not joining a church.

3. You claim that your exhibit "... reveals the human face of a people who struggled to maintain their humanity in slavery and to preserve their autonomy in freedom." Your sentiment is also the focus of self-described revisionist historians like James Loewen and Howard Zinn who view history through the lens of the less-fortunate and less-renowned. Do you consider your exhibit to be "revisionist?"

I'm a social scientist by training. My PhD is in sociology and all my research projects are historical. I don't see myself as a revisionist per se, but I work hard to extract evidence of the past and to accurately represent it. Sometimes that might revise what we know about a subject and sometimes not. As a consequence, some aspects of the exhibit are "revisionary" in the sense that as new evidence came to light I had to account for it.

4. At the debut of the exhibit, you mentioned that you invite contact by descendants of the slaves who lived at Midway. Have you been contacted and if so, can you share something about those contacts?

I've been delighted by the response. As you are aware, one exhibit panel lists the names of freedmen along with their former masters and I invite individuals who recognize an ancestor to contact me. Several people have done so and I have sent them information about their relative(s). It's nice to get some of the "data" that I use for other purposes into the hands of family members.

5. Assuming you have had time to gather some feedback from viewers, what have been some of the most interesting responses? Most unusual? Most common misconceptions?

As you say, I invite viewers to respond to the exhibit in a notebook. Although many have responded, I haven't yet given their comments any serious consideration. I do plan to do that, however. I'll use their comments as a way to evaluate myself and to discern whether I met my objectives in creating the exhibit. Somehow it seems premature to summarize the reactions before the exhibit closes other than to say that the vast majority of the comments are positive. One negative response I can remember was from a person who felt that I had sugar-coated slavery.

6. What would you say to the descendants of Midway slaves about your exhibit? What relevance does your exhibit have for them? Why should they come to see it?

I hope that they as well as others who visit the exhibit feel that I did justice to the men and women who labored as slaves in Liberty County. I tried in as much as possible to use their own words to describe their lives. My hope is that those who come to see the exhibit will walk away understanding that despite the horrific hardships of slavery, blacks still managed to create a sense of community within which families loved and raised their children, told their histories, and yearned for a better future.

7. Similarly, what would you say to the descendants of Midway slaveholders about your exhibit? What relevance does your exhibit have for them? Why should they come to see it?

I hope that descendants of free and slave alike will come to see the exhibit. It's not about black history or white history; it's about coming to terms with our history. I don't think that blame or restitution moves us forward, but we as a nation need to do some healing. My sense is that healing begins with an understanding of what happened -- in all its complexities.

Editor's Note: Dr. Peggy Hargis was very gracious in answering the questions for this issue. Although we disagree on some aspects of the dynamics of slavery and how its history might be presented, I wholeheartedly applaud her research and remain most grateful for her generosity. We both agree that a more detailed exploration of slave life will lead to a better appreciation of our shared history.

John Sharpe Revolutionary Soldier of Tattnall County

Testimony of application for pension under the Pension Act of 1832

Georgia Tattnall County/ On this ninth day of October Eighteen hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open court in the Superior Court of said county and State now sitting **John Sharpe** a resident of the county and State aforesaid who was born in Virginia in the year one thousand seven hundred and sixty two which appears by a records of his age now seventy years who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed seventh day of June One thousand eight hundred and thirty two.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. He entered the service in the year seventeen hundred and eighty one as a volunteer under **Colonel Twiggs** and was under **General Wayne** for Two months at the place called Ebenezer in this State and was at the Siege of Savannah under **General McIntosh** and was also at the Siege of Augusta and at the Battle of the White House in Liberty County in this State under **Col. Jackson** and served from the year seventeen hundred and eighty one to the end of the war in seventeen hundred eighty three a period of more than two years and was a resident at the time he entered the service of the County of Burke and said State and since the Revolution has been a resident of the State of Georgia and for the last thirty ____ (illegible) years a resident of the county of Tattnall. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension rol of the agency of this state or any other.

Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

John Sharpe (signature)

We **John Coward** a Clergyman residing in the county of Tattnall and **John Mattox** residing in the county of Tattnall hereby certify that we are well acquainted with **John Sharpe** who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration, that we believe him to be seventy years of age, that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the Revolution and that we concur in that opinion.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

John (his mark) Cowart

John Mattox

And the said court hereby declares its opinion after the investigation of the matter and after putting the Interrogatives prescribed by the war department that the above named applicant was a revolutionary soldier and served as he states and the court further certifies that it appears that John Coward who has signed the preceeding certificate is a clergyman resident in the county of Tattnall and is a credible person and that their statement is entitled to credit.

Excerpted from The Tattnall County Georgia Superior Court Records 1805-1832.

Will the Real Josiah Tattnall Please Stand Up?

Josiah Tattnall I was a British loyalist though he never bore arms against the people of Georgia during the Revolution. Before the war, he and his father in law, John Mulryn were the owners of a large coastal plantation called Bonaventure that included a small family cemetery. During the Revolution his property was confiscated by the State and sold to James Habersham. Today that cemetery is a the 70 acre landmark known as Bonaventure Cemetery in Savannah. His son, **Josiah Tattnall II** was a Revolutionary soldier, who later served as a U.S. Senator and Governor of Georgia. He is noted for his role in ending the Yazoo Land Fraud Scandal. After Independence was won he purchased his father's plantation back from James Habersham. He died at the age of 38 and is buried in Bonaventure Cemetery. His son, **Josiah Tattnall III**, became a U.S. naval officer and served in The War of 1812, The Second Barbary War, and The Mexican-American War. When Georgia seceded, he opposed the move but like his grandfather could not bring himself to bear arms against the people of Georgia. He resigned his U.S. naval commission and became commander of the Georgia Naval forces for the Confederate States of America. Most notably he was the commander of the CSS Virginia (aka Merrimac) after the famous battle of the ironclads known as the Monitor vs. Merrimack in 1862. He was forced to order its destruction when low water made its capture inevitable. After the war, the family plantation at Bonaventure was again wrested from his family when the U.S. government took possession of the property after the War. When he died in 1871, he was buried near his father in Bonaventure.

Tattnall County, Georgia is named for Josiah Tattnall Jr. (II), the Georgia governor and senator.

**THOMPSON'S BOOKS
OF SOUTHEAST GEORGIA**

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Preserving South Georgia's Unique History & Heritage

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Enclosed is your copy of:
The Hencart Road Review

Book Reviews:

Will to Live: An Autobiography of Willie P. Hendricks **River to River: History of Effingham County**

Will to Live

In 1998, at age 74 Willie Preston Hendricks wrote a history about his life which began and ended in the "Deep South".

Some critics might dismiss such an autobiography as simply a "vanity" print or an exercise in self-absorption. It is neither. More people from his generation SHOULD write such books. We could all learn a lot from folks like him. Hendricks speaks with deep conviction about God and Country and reflects on his upbringing in rural south Georgia. He reveals some painful details about his family history. He describes his childhood, his joys, his stumbles, his lessons in growing up. He describes the economic conditions typi-

cal in south Georgia during his early life.

He recounts his 20 plus years in the Army and explains how his boyhood passion for bird dogs and quail hunting afforded him adult life opportunities he would otherwise not have enjoyed. Engaging and entertaining, this book is also valuable for the way in which it captures the essence of a rural south Georgia "raising". Available through Thompsons Books by calling 912-682-5501.

River to River

Modeled after Buddy Sullivan's history of Bryan

County, this history of Effingham County by Betty Renfro is an excellent county history. Some county histories end up morphing into pseudo-family histories of a select few. Not so with this one. Meticulously researched and well presented, this book is a welcome addition to the history of South Georgia. Effingham county was home

to numerous south Georgia pioneers who lived there briefly before heading elsewhere. This book sheds light on those early migrations and will be a useful research tool for many. Loaded with photos, maps and historical documents. Order info on page 5.

