



# TRAILS IN HISTORY

*Official Newsletter of the Lee County Historical Society*

Volume 42, Number 4    October 2009    Published Quarterly

## LEE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INVITES YOU TO THE 38<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL HISTORICAL FAIR

**Saturday, October 24  
8:00am - 4:00pm**

**LCHS Museum & Grounds  
Hwy 14, Loachapoka, Alabama**

### FOLKLIFE DEMONSTRATIONS

**Log Cabin, Blacksmith Shop, Gristmill, Indian Exhibits**

**Quilting, Spinning, Weaving, Pottery**

**Basket Making, Natural Dyes, Broom Making**

### MUSIC

**Bands, Singing Groups, Dulcimers**

### COUNTRY COOKIN'

**Sweet Tater Biscuits, Fritters, Beans, Collards,**

**Camp Stew, BBQ, Homemade Ice Cream**

### CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

**Free Surrey Rides, Petting Zoo, Garden Harvest**

**Sugarcane Squeezin', Cider Press**

\$3.00 admits you to the museum and grounds  
Children under 12 (with an adult) and over 90 FREE

No Charge to LCHS members

Lee County Historical Society  
P. O. Box 206  
Loachapoka, AL 36865

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**LEE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

P. O. Box 206  
LOACHAPOKA, AL 36865

**web address:**

www.leecountyhistoricalsociety.org

**e-mail:** lchs1968@hotmail.com

Organized October 25, 1968, chartered as a non-commercial, non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Alabama, Charter filed with Probate Court, Lee County, Alabama, November 8, 1968.

**OFFICERS**

President: Deborah McCord  
Vice-President: Charles C. Mitchell  
Treasurer: Harvey Gosser  
Secretary: Jeannette Frandsen  
HCC Delegate: Ann Pearson  
Trails Editor: Janet Sugg

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Term expires December 31, 2011  
Ruth Ann Bond  
Kay Campbell  
Pat Conover  
Sheila Eckman  
Zack Sprayberry  
Carl Summers, Jr.

Term expires December 31, 2010  
Dottie Marcinko  
Arvle Marshall  
Deborah McCord  
John Ross  
William Wilson  
Jim Witte

Term expires December 31, 2009  
Doyle Keasal  
Charles H. Mitchell  
Betty Patterson  
Janet Sugg  
Peggie Webster  
Barbara Gosser

**MUSEUM HOURS**

(Summer)

**TUESDAY - FRIDAY**

**12 noon - 5:00 pm**

**2nd SATURDAYS**

**10:00 am - 3:00 pm**

*Closed - Sunday and Monday*

**MUSEUM CALENDAR**

**October 10, 2009 - Scarecrows!**

Second Saturday, 10am - 3pm.

Local organizations and individuals assemble scarecrows for display.

Work Day - preparation for the Historical Fair.

**October 24, 2009 - Historical Fair!**

**November 14, 2009 - "Story Day"**

Second Saturday, 10am - 3pm.

Auburn University's OLLI group will be on hand to weave a few tall tales.

**December 12, 2009 - Christmas at the**

**Homestead.** Second Saturday, 10am 3pm. Traditional decorations, celebration and fellowship, games for children, and musical entertainment.

**LCHS MEMBERSHIP**

Due: January 1 of each year  
Individual: \$20 per individual  
Family: \$30 (spouse and children)  
*Additional Donations Appreciated*

All memberships and donations to LCHS are tax deductible. Please send your check (payable to LCHS), your mailing address (and e-mail address if applicable) to

Lee County Historical Society  
P. O. Box 206  
Loachapoka, AL 36865

ing. They are a wonderful gift to the Society!

**Deena Rowell** is another special gift to us. She too, has been coming one day a week to keep the museum open for visitors and to do a variety of jobs from complicated research to scrubbing pots and pans. Unhappily for us she has returned to her school teaching but, like Janelle, she will be with us on Saturdays to play the dulcimer.

**Kay Campbell** has converted the Taylor Whatley building into a fine museum of farm equipment, so it was with special pleasure we greeted her to help in the Trade Center in the summer.

**Jeannette Frandsen** devoted Thursdays to learning the new programs on our computers, to designing a new exhibit in the west room, and to anything else that needed doing.

**Esther and Arvle Marshall** came and while he hung a mirror, fixed things and restrung the large loom, she worked in the fabric room and in other rooms of the upstairs. Esther also sewed catalog numbers on some very delicate pieces of clothing, and was ready to help with the many extras that came our way. Arvle arranged a glass shelf in one exhibit case so the papers and pictures could be read and seen without slipping to the floor.

**Bill Wilson** is always willing and ready to help so he came on Tuesdays and solved problems, put our many photographs in order and in archival covers, replaced a light switch, and gave splendid suggestions, which we needed, for the new west room exhibit.

We have had a busy summer and accomplished a lot!

**Request for Information**

Several years ago **Mr. J.D. McLung** gave us some pottery he had made from Wire Rd. clay. The pieces are on exhibit now and I want to know more about him. Please, if anyone knows, let me know. A student? a professor? a business man? a member of the Society? Still in town?

**Museum Needs**

The One Room School House needs a **desk for the teacher**. A small, plain one that would be in keeping with the ones used in the mid 1800s. It also needs an **American flag with 48 stars** - one small enough to not over power the log cabin room, and not made of synthetic fiber. We have a ladle but we want a water bucket to go with it so the children can have a drink when they need it.

Once more we need some **sheets or other large pieces of fabric** with which to cover various things in storage.

**Call for Photographs of Structures Lost to Auburn**

Three Auburn natives, **Ann Pearson, Ralph Draughon, and DeLos Hughes** are putting a book together a book titled *Lost Auburn*. This book will feature photographs of houses and other structures that are no longer standing in Auburn, Alabama, and will surely be of great interest to all of us. If you have photographs of exteriors of houses and old buildings that are "lost" to Auburn, please get in touch with one of these authors. They would like to scan and promptly return any photos that you can loan them.

Ann Pearson at [stonylonesome@earthlink.net](mailto:stonylonesome@earthlink.net) or 334-821-3660  
Ralph Draughon at [rdraughon2@bellsouth.net](mailto:rdraughon2@bellsouth.net) or 334-887-8493  
Delos Hughes at [hughesd@wlu.edu](mailto:hughesd@wlu.edu) or 334-821-1151

## Museum Report

Jessie Summers, LCHS museum Curator

Interesting bit of our history: In the **October 1979** issue of *Trails* was a full page of all the exciting things being offered for the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Fair. One entry was this: "Loachapoka Ruitan Club and the Loachapoka Improvement Club will be promoting syrup-sopping and biscuit-with-sausage day."

**Ms Margaret deMaine**, long time member and supporter, has made a very generous donation to our building fund, for which we are certainly grateful.

**Jo Ann Robertson** also added generously to the building fund so that we can continue the much needed renovation.

**Cassidy Meadows** has given us, on indefinite loan, a beautiful spinning wheel for flax and wool that once belonged to her grandmother. **Esther Marshall** said, "It spins like a dream."

**Ruth Ann Bond** donated an oak dining room table which had been in the Nunn family for many years. It is a very useful and attractive addition to the meeting room.

**Pete Turnham** gave us exactly the desk we need for the study room upstairs. It is a very old, and a very large, family piece that documents can be spread all over.

**Click Shields** looked at the peeling paint on the wall all around the letters advertizing the dress shop that was once in the Trade Center Building and said, "I can fix that." And she did. Oil paint was used on the shop letters so they are just fine. It was a tedious job, but she and **Jeannette Frandsen** did it beautifully.

**James and Janelle Estes** have been doing a variety of jobs around the museum all summer and doing them well. All I say is, "Would you please?" and it's done. James is especially good at seeing things that need to be done and figuring out how to do them, and Janelle can be counted on to keep papers, and the many other things that have been cataloged, in order. When she is busy playing the dulcimer on Saturdays he is busy cleaning and fix-

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### *Interns on Treasure Hunt*

*continued from page 13*

gradual change in language regarding slavery, examples of which she found in letters, magazines and other printed materials covering a period of time. LaRocque came across a notice for a Klansman rally among a box of receipts. "It's probably not something to be eagerly put on display," he says, "but it is our history, like it or not."

With 40 years of incoming documents and no apparent organization, the young interns believe their challenge

is to leave their work manageable for the next intern. "I think our biggest task is to find a way to share what we have done so it can be continued," says Kiphutt, who studies under Professor Reagan Grimsley, Director of Archival Studies. "There have been interns in the past, but there has been little continuity. Hopefully, we are doing things that can continue after we're gone. And maybe our work will make accessibility easier, encouraging more visitors."

## LCHS President's Report

by Deborah McCord

The LCHS has enjoyed having two wonderful interns this summer: Shannon Kipphut and James LaRocque. These two people worked wonders in our research room upstairs. Their main duties involved inventorying, sorting, and correctly storing our historical documents. The purchase of a portable air conditioner allowed them to work during the hot summer afternoons going through boxes, stacks, and files to assist us in preserving our irreplaceable historical documents. The job is not complete, but with the end of summer and the beginning of Fall Semester, both have had to leave us and we will greatly miss their help. Volunteers are needed to work in this area.

Betty Patterson, chairing the volunteer committee, has enlisted the aid of many society members as volunteers to play host during our new hours of operation: Tuesday through Friday from 12:00 to 5:00 pm. Without the many vol-

unteers giving of their time we would not be able to open the museum to the public. More and more community and area people are learning of our facilities and visiting during these hours.

Charles C. Mitchell has done a wonderful job in keeping our Second Saturdays quality events. Each month has a theme and we are always delighted with the turnout of demonstrators, volunteers and visitors. Please consider coming out to visit with us or volunteer for one of the Second Saturday re-enactments.

Charles H. Mitchell is chairing our Historical Fair, October 24, 2009. Every member can assist in some way and **you are needed**. Please contact Charles at [chmitchell@bellsouth.net](mailto:chmitchell@bellsouth.net) or 334-887-2255 and let him know how/when/where you will be able to help. Remember, the Historical Fair is our main means of support for the year. Hope to see you at the Fair!

## Museum Renovation Continues

Thanks to those listed below, the Society was able to make major repairs on the Old Trade Center. This included removing and replacing the exterior stucco, patching the interior plaster and installing insulation above the ceiling on the second floor. Our special thanks go to Ann Pearson, Dwight and Ruth Ann Bond and Judy Nunn for their generous contributions. Also, we are indebted to Senator Ted Little for obtaining a Community Service Grant which helped to fund the renovation.

In order to make the building suitable for year round use, we need to complete the renovation at a cost of \$68,000. This work will include installing a central A/C and Heating system. Please help us complete this important work by sending your check payable to the LCHS to P.O. Box 206, Loachapoka, AL 36865.

### Special Thanks to These Museum Renovation Fund Donors

Mrs. Anne W. Amacher  
Mrs. Lee R. Barker  
Mr. John Edward Barker  
Ms Ann Barr  
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Beck

Mrs. Doris Cannon Blomquist  
Mr. & Mrs. Dwight Bond  
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Bramlett  
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Brewer

*continued on page 4*

*Special Thanks to Museum Renovation Fund Donors continued from page 3*

Mrs. Lisa Brouillette  
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Mr. Terry Ley  
Mr. Lan Lipscomb  
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Ms Jo Ann Robertson  
Mr. & Mrs. Conrad Ross  
Ms Jayne Rushin  
Mr. William A. Samford  
Mr. Yetta G. Samford  
Mr. Robert Satin  
Mr. John E. Sewell

## Interns on Treasure Hunt at the Museum

by Sheila Eckman

"It's like a treasure hunt every day," says James LaRocque, summer intern at the Lee County Historical Society's Museum in Loachapoka. LaRocque, who is working on his bachelor's degree in history at the University of Chicago, is joined by Shannon Kipphut, an Auburn University master's candidate in Archival Studies.

The interns are cataloging, organizing and preserving most of the paper documents which have come to the Museum in various states of preservation over the past 40 years. Included are scrapbooks, photographs, maps, ledgers, land deeds, and letters. "It is captivating," says LaRocque. "It is hard not to pause and think about the stories behind them." Their work is supported by a grant from the Alabama Department of Archives and History, which provides the materials needed for cataloging and preservation.

"The majority of this has been stored in the vault," notes Kipphut. There is

mold and mildew damage because the building is not yet climate controlled, although there are plans to do just that. "There is no telling what shape they were in when given," she says. "Some are showing serious kinds of damage."

"We are in the midst of a triage of sorts," adds James, "sorting through all that is here and determining what is in direst need of attention."

The students bring different perspectives to the project. Kipphut, a Kentucky native, has enjoyed learning more about Auburn University and Lee County, after several years as a student in the area. "It is like a treasure hunt," she agrees, "it is easy to get sidetracked. It is so fascinating to see what people have given [to the Museum] over the years. Some of it is very personal, so you get a glimpse into their lives."

For LaRocque, who grew up in Auburn, seeing old photos of the town and the University from the 20s has been interesting. He found a collection of letters from Confederate soldiers and civilians particularly compelling, as they documented both the War Between the States and reconstruction. "They exhibit a lot of decay and burn marks," he noted. Kipphut has enjoyed noting the

*continued on page 14*



*Shannon Kipphut, left, and James LaRocque, summer interns at the LCHS museum have been cataloging and preserving paper documents donated to the museum during the past 40 years. They agree that the job is something of a treasure hunt, making it hard to stay on task*

## The “Pore House”

by Carl Summers

Just a short distance east of Opelika on the north side of Highway 29 was the County Poor House, better known as the “Pore House”. In the 1930’s this is where indigent old people lived who had no family or anyone willing to take care of them. The county paid a caretaker a minuscule amount to look after these folks. They were housed in an old frame farm home with a porch that extended across its full width. As we drove pass on the way to town, I would often see several old, sad and lonely people sitting and rocking on the porch.

When a resident died, unless the body was claimed by a relative, it was buried nearby in the Pauper’s, or County Farm Cemetery. Now overgrown, it is believed to contain over 100 graves which originally had a rock at either end but had no identification as to who was buried there. Before a death certificate was required by the state, the Lee County Commission Records often showed the cost of the coffin expenses but did not list the name of the deceased.

The Poor House existed before the government programs of Social Security and Medicaid came into being. Passing by the Poor House was a reminder that you needed to learn some way to make a decent living and to save money for your old age. When I was less than diligent in my school work my mother often reminded me of the old folks sitting there on the porch rocking.

In the 1930’s I knew a fair number of people unable to earn a living but none of them were ever sent to the Poor House. There was always someone who would take them in. Grandmother Thompson was bedridden in our home for several

months and received loving care until her death on November 29, 1934. She had raised three children of her own and then served as the caretaker for my younger sister and me for many years. Our family was happy to give her all the care that she needed. Not all families were as fortunate as we were.

When Medicaid was passed by congress in 1965 it was a godsend to many. I remember Mr. Bradley (not his real name) who lived up the road from us. He was a small, dried up, frail little man in his 80’s who lived in a three room shack with his daughter and her three young children. In the winter the only heat was from one wood burning fireplace. They existed on a welfare check which provided barely enough to eat. Mr. Bradley had been a laborer without any special skill and had always lived on the borderline of poverty. Now, although his mind was clear, he was incontinent and suffered from arthritis and rheumatism. He could walk with difficulty but could not even bend over to tie his shoes.

When the nursing home in Opelika was opened to Medicaid patients, he met all the eligibility requirements to receive care and was admitted. Now he had a comfortable bed with clean sheets, three good meals a day, central heat and air conditioning, and a nurse to give him medication and change him when needed. Mr. Bradley thought he had gone to heaven as he truly had never had it so good.

What a blessing Medicaid was to eliminate the Poor Houses and give folks like Mr. Bradley a whole new life, even if it was only for a few years.

Mrs. Emily A. Shields  
Ms Linda Silavent  
Mr. Jack Simms  
Ms Mary Lou Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. Albert J. Smith Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe L. Spooner  
Mr. Zack Sprayberry  
Mr. James B. Sprayberry  
Mr. Ellsworth Steele  
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Summers  
Mrs. Carolyn Tamblin  
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Taunton  
Dr. Martha Thomas  
Mr. A. E. Thompson  
Mrs. Louise Turner

Mr. & Mrs. Pete Turnham  
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& Joy F Whitaker.  
Ms Sandra G. Whitman  
Ms Jo Wiggins  
Ms Lorna Wiggins  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward T. Williams  
Ms Annette P. Woodley  
Writers Group  
Mr. Joe Yeager

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## Whistle Stop Pickers

The Whistle Stop Pickers is a music-loving group playing acoustic instruments such as mountain dulcimer, hammered dulcimer, bowed psaltery, autoharp, guitar, and banjo. The group meets every Saturday from 1:00-3:00pm at the museum. Our group began a year ago and has really grown the last 6 months. We are representing the LCHS at area events and at Assisted Living and Retirement homes in the area. In July the group played for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Museum of East Alabama in Opelika. In August the group performed at Azalea Place and Morning Side in Auburn. Our next play date will be September 25<sup>th</sup> at Monarch Estates in Auburn. The group also plays each Second Saturday of the month at the museum.

Anyone interested in joining our acoustic group is welcome. New dulcimer players are given instruction and tabs. There is no fee to join our group, but members are encouraged to join the Lee County Historical Society. Our group is also considered a satellite group of the North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association. For more information, please call Deborah at 334-703-3646.



*The Whistle Stop Pickers perform and practice every Second Saturday at the LCHS Museum.*

## Upcoming Events on Second Saturdays

On the second Saturday of every month, LCHS volunteers gather at the LCHS Museum in period attire to demonstrate their arts and crafts. Blacksmiths are usually working at the forge, spinners and weavers are upstairs in the Trade Center Museum, and someone is always cooking up a meal in the log cabin or outdoors. Come visit, or if you have a skill to demonstrate or just would like to help out on Second Saturdays, dress up in 19<sup>th</sup> Century attire and join the fun.

**October 10, 2009 (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) Scarecrows!** Individuals and organizations will be erecting scarecrows on the museum grounds for the first time. Since this is a first for LCHS, it will be interesting to see how creative our members can be. All the buildings will be open and volunteers will be around to host visitors. The Blacksmiths are always creating a useful tool on the forge. However, since the Historical Fair is only two weeks away, most volunteers will be cleaning up and getting the buildings and grounds ready for the Historical Fair on October 24. This is a good day to come by to see the Crops Garden and the McLain Garden before the sweet potatoes and peanuts are dug and the sugarcane cut.

**November 14, 2009. "Story Day"**. We had a story day back in September that was well received. This month, Jack Day's class from Auburn University's OLLI will be on hand to weave a few tall tales. Some might be true! Visitors are invited to join in with their favorite childhood tale or memory. All the buildings will be open and other Second Saturday activities will be going on concurrently.

**December 12, 2009. "Christmas at the Homestead"**, a time of celebration and fellowship. The Lee County Historical Society will host an open house for anyone to drop by and help us celebrate the holidays and a successful year of activities. There will be games for the children and musical entertainment and food for all.

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### Jim Witte Takes First Prize at Batson Blade Symposium & Knife Show

You'll all want to congratulate our own Dr. Jim Witte on another win. This time it's his first prize at the 21st anniversary of the Batson Blade Symposium and Knife Show at Tannehill Ironworks near Bessemer last April. Here's a few words taken from



Photo: William White, OA

William White's splendid news article: "Alabama is fortunate to have some of the best knife makers residing here in Auburn, said Witte. There are some 400 to 500 blade makers who come in from all over: Ohio, Pennsylvania and throughout the southeast for the Symposium." Several years ago, Shannon Hogg, a former forgemaster at the Auburn Forge, also took first place in the spike building contest," he said. "So believe it or not, some of the best railroad spike knife builders in the state are located right here in Loachapoka."

We gathered up our crew and headed for the swamp with ropes, chains, guns and a lot of faith in our leader. As we drew near we heard the most terrible, ferocious pig noise. Upon arriving at the trap we saw a boar of about 350-400 pounds. He squealed. He yelled. He frothed at the mouth. He stood up on his hind legs, turning round and round. When he saw us he went even more crazy. His tusks were at least three inches long. Daddy looked around, but we were all looking for a tree to climb. Several of us had already shin-

nyed up, including myself. The trusted men and myself were commanded to come forth. He said to me, "Son, how we gonna' catch that rascal?" We threw ropes around him, dropping the ropes down through the top. He chewed and shredded the ropes in short order and the chains we couldn't fasten. It was a real puzzlement. Daddy sat down to "ponder". As he was thinking, the pig continued its agitated barrage. It finally gave a demented charge and broke through one side of the trap.

Never, in all my life had I seen my Daddy run away from anything, but Daddy, myself and five men were moving like the wind. We flew up the nearest trees. It didn't make any difference if limbs were there to help or not. The boar, still squealing, visited every tree, voicing his displeasure and letting us

know who was boss now. After about twenty minutes the boar finally left. We started yelling to see where each tree climber was and started coming down. Old Oscar said, "I was shaking so hard

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I believe I shook some hickory nuts off that tree." No one spoke again. In the truck I wanted so bad to laugh at my Daddy, but an unsure and almost deathly punishment awaited if I did. Nobody laughed at my Daddy.

After a while he turned to me, laughed and said, "Son, I'm kinda glad he got away

cause I don't know how you would've rode him out of that swamp."

That day Daddy thought I was laughing with him, but it was the only time I ever remember laughing at him. I imagine that pen is still there.

So ends the great pig adventure.

---

*John t. Smith is a graduate of the University of Alabama, retired Major in the U.S. Army, former Russell County Historian and former Board Member of the Historic Chattahoochee Commission. He has had a continuing interest in history and for many years wrote a column on local history for the Phenix Citizen. This story is reprinted from one of these columns. John T. now resides in Auburn and is a member of the Lee County Historical Society.*

*Tales of Yesteryear*  
**The Great Pig Adventure**  
 by John T. Smith

Growing up as a farm boy in rural Russell County in the 1940's-1950's, I learned many lessons. I will not refer to the "good ole days," but I want to relate to you one great day I find more meaningful and amusing with every passing year. So...

My father was a huge man, mean, fair, honest, hard working, long suffering and trustworthy to a fault. He never

asked any man "fer nothing," he said, "except bankers."

He was always teaching me lessons of life, as he called them. During the year of 1949 my daddy read where people were buying wild boars and selling them in Tennessee for hunting pre-

serves. He thought long and hard, especially at night, he would close his eyes sitting in front of the fireplace and say "don't bother me boy, I'm planning on catching a wild pig and sell it to some fool in Tennessee for \$500.00."

The next week my lather, five men and myself, with lumber, wire, nails and other paraphernalia headed for Big Uchee Creek and the Kelly Lakes. The lakes consisted of three or four beaver ponds which damned up irrigation ditches dug during 1840-1850 to water cotton for the Kelly families. Those ditches with shovel imprints still exist today. The swamp area here was extremely thick and wild pigs still live

there. Daddy, in his immense knowledge, selected an especially dense area which would be the trap site. Pig evidence was everywhere. He said, "This is it boys, let's get to work."

He put posts in the ground every three feet and made a twelve foot square. The posts in place, we nailed wire and lumber to build the sides. Planks were set up about five feet. We then laid cut trees

and wire on the top to prevent the pig from escaping. Daddy built a three foot by four foot trap door. This door was designed to be raised and held open with a cord tied to a plank anchored and covered with corn. When the pig's weight touched this plank down would slide the trap door and we'd have a wild boar.

We waited a few days for the animals to become accustomed to the pen and sure enough they began to come around and we saw signs that they had been in the pen. This capture would be Daddy's greatest outdoor adventure accomplishment ever, and we would all have learned a lot. We scattered corn all around and inside the trap. "We'll have one in about three days son," he said.

The day of reckoning came and Daddy went to check the pen. He returned home and said excitedly, "We got one, we got one, heard it hollering and squealing a mile away."

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*Upon arriving at the trap we saw a boar of about 350-400 pounds. He squealed. He yelled. He frothed at the mouth. He stood up on his hind legs, turning round and round. When he saw us he went even more crazy.*

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*If you are interested in participating in the 38th Annual Historical Fair as a vendor or demonstrator, please copy or cut out the form below and return it with your payment to Peggy Mitchell (see below).*

**Lee County Historical Society**  
**38TH ANNUAL HISTORICAL FAIR**  
**October 24, 2009**

**DEMONSTRATOR/VENDOR APPLICATION**  
**Application Deadline – October 17, 2009**

**YES!** I am planning to participate in the Fair and will be:

- Demonstrating the following craft: \_\_\_\_\_
- Exhibiting the following arts & craft items: \_\_\_\_\_
- Selling the following food items: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone no.: \_\_\_\_\_

**Fees are due at the time of mail in registration. Please make checks payable to LCHS.**

- Demonstrator Only (no sales) .....\$ 0
- Arts & Crafts vendor space NON-Member of LCHS.....\$40
- Arts & Crafts vendor/Demonstrator or Member of LCHS .....\$20
- Food vendor space – individual or company .....\$125
- Food vendor space – non-profit organization fund raiser .....\$25

**TOTAL AMOUNT INCLOSED .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Please mail the completed form with your check payable to LCHS to**

**Peggy Mitchell  
 1122 Lee Rd. 57  
 Auburn, AL 36832**

## Memories of an Early Physician

By Mrs. Bessie Thomas Love

Written in 1954 for the *Opelika Daily News*

Dr. J.M. Love died in Opelika in 1909 at the age of 90. He had served as a surgeon in the Army of the Confederacy and was one of the all too few doctors caring for the great influx of wounded throughout the Battle of Atlanta.

His son, Dr. W. J. Love, practiced medicine in Opelika for more than 40 years. It was a familiar sight to see Dr. Love in his top buggy, drawn by Shelby (a high stepping chestnut horse) and driven by Bobby Finley, a faithful servant for over 25 years. Regardless of distance or whether they slogged through mud or dust, day or night, with no called left unanswered. More than once I saw Dr. Love walk the floor, wring his hands and pray when he had a patient who was critically ill.

At a medical convention in New York in the 1930's, a paper was presented with the emphasis on the increased ratio of battle casualties saved during World War I by the method discovered for combating gas gangrene. The paper concluded with the statement that this

discovery was made by two country doctors in Alabama.

Dr. Love told me that this came about from the case of a colored patient he had in LaFayette. He was called by the sheriff of Chambers County to attend a prisoner suffering from a gunshot wound. Gas gangrene had set up, and immediate amputation of the entire leg was necessary. The patient recovered and lived for many years.

Dr. Love's scientific curiosity was piqued by the rapid spread of the gas bacillus and since there was no laboratory in Opelika or LaFayette, he put the dismembered limb in his buggy and carried it to Auburn where Dr. Carey assisted him in the research that led to the control of gas gangrene referred to at the New York convention. This, so far as is known, is the only recognition or acknowledgment of these two doctors of long ago, for this discovery in medical science, which illustrates how we "little note or long remember" the valor of our pioneers.

### *Mystery Solved*

For years, we have debated and discussed the actual meaning of the original Creek Indian word that we now spell as, "Loachapoka". We knew it involved turtles, but no one was certain what those reptiles were doing when they resided in what is now the town of Loachapoka, Alabama. Some thought that Loachapoka meant "place where turtles were killed" or "resting place for turtles."

Richard Thornton who was our guest speaker for the summer meeting of LCHS, wrote the senior professor of Creek languages at the University of Oklahoma, Margaret Maudin. Her daughter, who is also a professor there, wrote him back. Loachapoka was originally "Locv Apokv" in Creek. C is pronounced as a "ch" and "v" is pronounced as "aw". The name means "Place Where the Turtles Sit."

So now the mystery is finally solved. They were resting after all.

## *In Memory*

### Prince Wilson Webster - 1926-2009



Mr. Prince Webster died at his home in Auburn on August 27, 2009 after an extended illness. Prince was a charter member of the Lee County Historical Society and one of the original trustees when the society incorporated on October 25, 1968. Prince was the son-in-law of the society's founder, the late Dr. Alexander Nunn. The Trade Center, our main museum building, and the original plot of land for the museum were purchased from Prince in 1968. He was an active member of the society for over 30 years.

Prince was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Mary Webster. Mr. Webster is survived by his wife of 58 years, Peggie Nunn Webster, two daughters: Margaret Webster Bryant (Tom) of Tallahassee, FL and Elizabeth Webster Beasley (Steve) of Marietta, GA, three grandchildren: Ashley Eden of Auburn, AL and Amelia And Chase Bryant of Tallahassee, FL, one brother, Paul Webster (Beverly) of Auburn, AL, one sister-in-law, Ruth Ann Bond (Dwight) of Loachapoka, AL, and several other loving family members.

Prince was well loved by his many friends and all who knew him. He was an outdoorsman, a nature lover, a farmer/gardener, and hunter. He is known to have loved children, all children, not just his grandchildren. His wife, Peggie, said that his favorite thing to do was entertain children with his telling of "tall tales." He would take the children onto his lap and have them giggling and laughing with his outrageous tales. Prince will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

We at the Lee County Historical Society wish to acknowledge his contribution to the establishment and early work of the society. The family has named the LCHS as one of the recipients of memorial gifts in Prince's memory. If you would like to make a donation in his memory, please make your gift out to the Lee County Historical Society and note on the check "In Memory of Prince Webster." The family will receive acknowledgments of all such contributions.

### Cathryn Bayne Cranford - 1913-2009

Cathryn Bayne Cranford, the artist of our set of Southern rural farming paintings, died at age 96 on June 27, 2009 in Auburn. A native of Macon, Georgia, she graduated from API in 1934 in Art. These pictures beautifully illustrate the era our Museum seeks to illuminate. Her husband, Colonel Norman Cranford, was a charter member of the society and a loyal supporter of our museum. Their son, Norman Bayne Cranford, continues as an interested member of our society.



*Cathryn Bayne Cranford's painting of a steam locomotive.*