



## Special Points Of Interest:

- We are now 49 members strong. Off to a great start!
- Annual Spring Members Meeting and Dinner scheduled for April 14, 2007. Ya'll Come!
- Bylaws adopted at the November Board Meeting.

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**Preserve, Protect, Promote**

Volume 1, Issue 1

Winter 2007

## Pioneer Cemetery Grant

The Historic Chattahoochee Commission has awarded a \$2000 grant for the renovation of the Pioneer Cemetery. This Grant must be matched by \$2000 from the Society. These funds may be either monetary or "in-kind" services such as labor to work on the project.

Plans are being developed at this time

for this renovation project. Part of the funds will be used for signage and a fence to enclose this historic site and make it a destination for visitors to our area. We will be needing a lot of help

with this project. When a member asks you to help, please say yes. We all want to save this valuable attribute of our community.



## New Roof At Frontier Village

A new roof has been installed on the double pen log house at the Frontier Village.



This work was funded by the Society and will help save the structure from further deterioration and water damage. Your society gave \$1380 for this work and aided the Frontier Village Commission in the

maintenance of the structures in the Village.

The Toll House is also in need of much repair !!  
Updates in the near future.

# Cemetery Census Underway

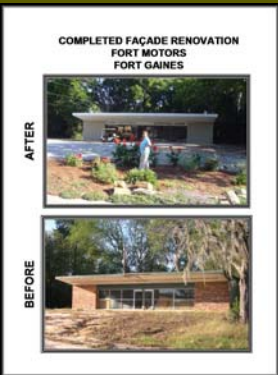
A cemetery census is underway in Fort Gaines and the surrounding Clay County area. The Historical Society has agreed to collaborate in the Library's ongoing **African American Cemetery Inventory Project**. The goal is to record names and dates on tombstones in all cemeteries in the nearby area and to educate the public about rights of access, care and respect of

these sites and monuments. Rose Hill and Pippin Cemeteries have been completed. The information will be put on a database which will be available at the library. The Society looks forward to publishing the data in book form.

This completed project will provide much needed data.

Jean Turn is project manager for the census work. If you would like to lend a hand, contact Jean at the Library.

The library reports that there has been a marked increase in inquiries in the past few years concerning genealogical information.



# Postcards At The Fort

Postcards of Fort Gaines produced by the Historical Society made their debut at Christmas at the Fort. These postcards are presented to new members and have proven to be a "hit". The first series of six circa 1920's postcards mainly depict some colorful "characters" of Fort Gaines and Bluffton.

Other series postcards will be produced in the future.

We would welcome your input on subjects for the proposed series as well as comments concerning the postcards or how they could be marketed.

### NEEDED !!!

We would like to borrow for reproduction any historic photographs you might have.



# Façade Grant Awards

Fort Gaines Historical Society administers a program funded by the City to help the business owners maintain the front facades of the downtown area. The façade grant program promotes the continued vitality and sustainability of the city of Fort Gaines, especially the downtown Central Business District.

Maintenance and upgrades to the facades of the existing buildings ensures the appearance of the district is maintained.

The program will "match" up to one-third of the cost to fix up the front façade of a building up to a maximum of \$500. The details of the program and the guidelines

for application as well as forms may be obtained by contacting the Historical Society.

# Out Of The Past

These are excerpts from The Sentinel the local Clay County paper printed at the turn of the 20th century. The editor was Josh Jones, father of Lamar Jones, grandfather of Fred Jones.

Feb. 17, 1899– Mr. Asa Clark, the popular engineer on the Fort Gaines branch railroad, is moving from his farm back to town. He says the market for may-pops is too irregular and although his land is productive,

the adjacent lands are so poor the 4 o’clocks don’t open until 5:30.

May 5, 1899– Arlington is promised telephone connection with Blakely at an early date which will also put her on speaking terms with Fort Gaines, the metropolis of Southwest Georgia.

Nov. 2, 1900– About 50 persons boarded the steamboat here last Sunday morning to visit the

Columbus Street Fair. The boat was already crowded and the Captain protested that he could not accommodate so many, but the boys “piled” on nevertheless.

Nov. 9, 1900– There has been a considerable advance in the price of farmlands in Clay County. It is not uncommon to hear sales made at \$15 and \$20 per acre.

July 26, 1901– The Free Rural Mail has been put in operation in this county. Mr. J.W. Sutton, the carrier, having started out on his first round this morning.

Submitted by FGHS member James E. Coleman

## Spring Members Meeting and Dinner

Our first **Annual Spring Members Meeting and Dinner** will be held **April 14, 2007** at the Hatchett Drug Store on Washington Street in downtown Fort Gaines.

We will gather at 5:00 P.M. for an evening that will include a business meeting and a barbecued chicken dinner and

fellowship. Come meet your fellow members and the board. We will be presenting information about the state of our Society today and its future.

We ask that members bring a covered dish and contribute \$5.00 per person to help cover the cost of paper products and the chicken.

We hope to have some live musical entertainment to help celebrate not only the founding of Fort Gaines in April 1816, but the beginning of a dynamic, hard working Society.

See the insert included with this newsletter for details.

Ya’ll come!

COPIES OF THE SOCIETY BYLAWS AVAILABLE AT SPRING DINNER MEETING

## New Society Logo Adopted



The Fort Gaines Historical Society has adopted its official

logo and it now appears throughout this issue. The logo and typeface were developed by Board member Ken Penuel using the original service mark held by the Economic Development Council. The mark is also used by the City of Fort Gaines. The service mark, which is the Fort, has been

registered with the State for decades and because of its age, is a very fitting symbol for the Society. The Society will work this image into other formats such as certificates, member cards, stationery, etc.

**Give us your ideas for creative ways to use our logo as a fund raising tool!**

# Fort Gaines Historical Society, Inc



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stamp

***Preserve, Protect, Promote***

## **WANT TO JOIN US ?** **HERE IS HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER**

**This membership entitles you to the following:**

- **Quarterly Newsletter**
- **Annual Member's meeting and dinner invitation**
- **Participation in preserving, protecting and promoting our local heritage.**

**Please fill out the coupon below. Make checks payable to the Fort Gaines Historical Society, Inc. and mail to PO Box 825, Fort Gaines, GA 39851.**

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

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

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**Individual Membership (\$20.00)**

**Corporate Membership (\$100.00)**

**Amount enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_