FEATURE STORY—

DORIS LADD SHEPARD

Peter Mallett, our founder, said it best when he said, “There would be no East Georgia if Doris had not lived there next to the railroad. It is an amazing story.” Our history books at the Georgia Library are loaded with accounts made by this great lady. Our photo albums are loaded with photographs donated by her. Many priceless artifacts are in our museums and still more of our wonderful collections are at Cont’d Pg. 4...

ENGINE 303 & GEORGIA HIGH BRIDGE
September 11, 1956

This magnificent train picture was taken by Robert Collins. It shows the Engine 303 in East Georgia headed for Oakland Station in St. Albans.

Photo courtesy of Newell Decker formerly of Georgia Plains, October, 2011

The actual photograph is located in the Georgia Library in the Georgia Historical Society collection of photographs.
GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PROGRAM REVIEW—2011

“ADVENTURES OF THE CANAL SCHONER – LOIS MCLURE” - MAY 18th

We learned the history of the original schooner that the Lois McClure is modeled after, as told by Erick Tichonuk of the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. At the time this came into use, the lakes were the only highway for moving goods from one region to another. The canals allowed for boats to go up and down the waterways from the north and south. In particular, these boats could take goods such as farmers’ food for market, tools, and all kinds of commodities. The need for this type of transportation in the 1800’s was great and that is why it was constructed as half sailing vessel and half canal boat. We saw many slides of different journeys the Lois McClure has made. Along the way, Capt. Tichonuk told of some great adventures he experienced.

Also included in the history were some of the mishaps of the original schooner, including the final destruction by storm and the tragic loss of many lives.

This was a fascinating presentation relating to the history of the original boat and tours the Lois McClure has made.

VERMONT MUSIC SAMPLER
JUNE 15th

Dr. Tortolano lead off the program with a slide presentation and an authentic recording of a song passed on from generation to generation by the First Nation of Vermont Abernakis and part of John Phillip Sousa’s “Stars and Stripes Forever”. Attendees saw many works of art and photographs accompanying and relating to the great songs recorded. It was so rewarding to see the many contributors to this wonderful art as Vermont’s own locals!

The wealth of knowledge of Dr. Tortolano was priceless. Each artist had a philosophy as to how he or she portrayed the music through their art. At the end of the program, Dr. Tortolano displayed the original music sheets from some of the composers for all to see.

The program was so very entertaining! The GHS was very proud to have provided such a well-received program through the Vermont Humanities Council.

COLLECTIONS & OBSESSIONS
JULY 20th

License Plate Collection – Gary Irish showed us a remarkable collection of old license plates which were in incredibly good condition. His total collection ranges from 2,000 to 3,000 plates as he has been a collector since he was in the seventh grade. Obviously, he imparted a great deal of knowledge on this subject – from the color of the plates – the numbers and their significance – to their use relating to categories of agriculture, passenger, and trucks in the early days. Some of these plates are extremely rare and are almost impossible to find as more and more collectors are increasingly holding onto these treasures rather than trading or selling them.

Post Card Collection - Peter Mallett’s son and daughter-in-law displayed wonderful volumes of a postcard collection ranging from 1912 to 2009 with an explanation regarding the history of the photograph on each. This information was provided by Doris Shepard. The research was typed and edited by Peter and Fran. The construction, photographs, design changes and the dates these occurred were explained in a handout with more in-depth information. These postcards were a great witness to the time in the days of each of them. Peter has donated this remarkable collection to the GHS!

Chair Collection - Georgia resident, Rebecca Ballard, showed us a sample of her chair collection. One she displayed was known as a ladder mat chair. Because of the deterioration of the seat when Rebecca received it, she re-matted the chair herself, explaining the process of the work to do so. She also showed a chair that was called the “Molly Pritchard” chair that was used during the Revolutionary War. Molly Pritchard helped the wounded rescued soldiers brought to her home by alleviating their suffering in providing water to them. Rebecca also told how her interest was so great regarding these chairs that it led her to obtain them from a brick barn addition dating back in 1835. She also attended as many moving sales and auctions that she could get to. She had a great deal of trivia and history to impart about this wonderful collection!

Books of Norman Rockwell - David Juaire, one of the GHS directors, had a wonderful collection of Norman Rockwell Illustrator books relating to Mr. Rockwell’s life and work—some dating back to 1946. David has and continues to collect as many as he can “get his hands on” because of the wonderful history behind Mr. Rockwell and the rarity of this find. He is fascinated, as are most of us, with the unique ideas and methods Rockwell used to portray American life. He displayed some of these remarkable volumes for us to browse through.

GHS Directors, Don Vickers and Cindy Ploof displayed a “Friendship” Quilt dating from 1868 to the 1900’s. The quilt pieces came from residents with their names and dates handwritten on 45 of the pieces which were found at an auction from the Pattee Estate. Don donated these pieces, which he purchased at the estate auction, and had the quilt completed by Rebecca Ballard. The task was difficult but a wonderful job of putting it all together could be seen as Don and Cindy held up the quilt for display.

Continued on Page 3...
GHS Director, Colin Conger displayed a family bible belonging to Captain George Conger, his great-great grandfather, a noted hero of the St. Albans Raid. Colin is starting a book, which will give the history of his family and all the research he has collected relating to it over the years. His collection is unbelievable in its priceless historical treasures that actually document the many events throughout his family’s history. Colin displayed many pictures of some of those artifacts that took a great deal of time and painful determination to research and gather. These were true wonders to see.

If you missed this one, you missed a night of extremely interesting history and absorbing displays.

► OLD CEMETERY TOUR II
AUGUST 20th

A guided tour took place at some of the cemeteries of Georgia that were not yet covered by our tour last year because of a limited amount of time. This tour covered Fairchild, Goodrich, Hillstown, Hope, Hurlbert-Waller, Loomis, and Purmort cemeteries.

The first one visited was Hillstown presented by GHS Director, Sara Vester. This was a very small cemetery, no longer active, located in a very remote area deep in the woods about 1,000 yards from the Georgia Shore Road. At one time, it contained about 12 stones as told by Elmer Bullock who saw the cemetery way back in 1922. Most of the markers of these grave sites have disappeared or are unreadable. But it was fascinating to see one so old that the dips in the ground and what was left of these old markers still emit a haunting quiet of the human remains laid to rest here.

Hurlbert-Waller Cemetery – This cemetery is the earliest known recorded burial in Georgia. It is surrounded by a beautiful stone wall with trees all around it and is located right on the Georgia Shore Road. This was the family cemetery of the descendants of the Hurlbert-Waller family. The person buried first was Rubin I. Hurlbert at the age of 55 in 1790. The last burial was to have been in 1880. There are 15 headstones and 18 persons buried there. This and more of the history was presented to the viewers by Cindy Ploof, GHS Director.

Still other cemeteries viewed were Fairchild, Goodrich, Hope, Loomis and Purmort as conveyed by GHS Directors Don Vickers, David Juaire, Georgia resident, Tina Bain (on whose property the Fairchild Cemetery lies), and GHS Director Colin Conger who led the tour. Many had some very captivating backgrounds on the lives of the Georgia residents and families buried there. Especially exciting to learn was the history relating to the war veterans and casualties – as far back as the Revolutionary War! The tour was fascinating and very educational for everyone!

► MINERAL SPRINGS OF GEORGIA
SEPTEMBER 21st

Peter Mallett and Duane Chase made an exceptional presentation regarding the “healing” waters of some of Georgia’s springs and some of the types of bottles used to

Continued on Page ...5

GEORGIA HISTORY QUIZ

1. In what year did the Town of Georgia begin to officially deal with residents trash?
   a. 1901   b. 1935  c. 1963  d. 1978

2. When did the Georgia Central School open?
   a. 1945   b. 1959  c. 1965  d. 1969

3. How many one-room schoolhouses did the central school replace?
   a. 7   b. 12  c. 14  d. 23

4. In what year was the stretch of Interstate 89 between Milton and Georgia completed?
   a. 1952   b. 1968  c. 1979  d. 1983

5. What year was Georgia’s first parade?
   a. 1878   b. 1912  c. 1933  d. 1975

6. The Green Mountain State was the first of the American states to eliminate all forms of human servitude. Georgia was among 23 towns to form anti-slavery societies in what year?
   a. 1836   b. 1852  c. 1862  d. 1878

7. At Town Meeting in 1969, voters passed a school budget totaling…?
   a. $68,000   b. $132,000  c. $653,000  d. $1.2 million

8. In what year did the Book Wagon from St. Albans Free Library begin its regular delivery of reading materials to Georgia residents?
   a. 1934   b. 1949  c. 1953  d. 1964

(Answers in this Newsletter on Page 9)
FEATURE STORY—Continued from Page 1…

the Georgia Municipal Building, again, donated to us from Doris. Everything relating to the 83 years that she physically lived through and experienced in East Georgia, she took account of and granted to us.

Doris was born July 6, 1909 in East Georgia. She was the only child of Ralph Lawton Ladd and Daisy Maxfield Ladd. She married Jed Hyde Shepard on March 4, 1962. Jed passed away on February 15, 1992. They had no children.

Doris attended high school at BFA Fairfax from which she graduated in 1926, and later taught music lessons at BFA and many of the Fairfax schools, as well as in St. Albans and Georgia.

While growing up in East Georgia, Doris saw many changes that took place and she was a great help in providing us with its amazing history of growth.

At one time, East Georgia was a buzzing metropolis with a railroad station, school, store and post office, warehouses – even a cattle storage building for waiting cattle to be shipped on the railroad.

Doris’ grandmother, Carrie Hyde Spaulding, bought the Spaulding Grocery Company Store on August 19, 1922, from then owner, Thad Leach and his wife. The store’s location was on top of the hill, on the right of 104A heading from Fairfax, on the road known as Jed Shepard Road (just after the Georgia Highbridge). Carrie was already serving as postmaster of the East Georgia Post Office located in the railroad station which she took over on February 28, 1921. She served until 1933 when, due to poor health, her two daughters, Jennie Maxfield and Daisy Ladd, Doris’ mother, carried on until it closed on April 5, 1957.

The railroad part had a freight office, milk shed, cattle yards, tool sheds, and a bunkhouse for the section gang.

A warehouse was located there for Ryan Brothers to conduct a grain business. Still another shed was built for passengers to leave their horses and buggies behind when boarding the train, courtesy of Central Vermont Railroad.

The Spaulding Store was a vital part of the economic needs of East Georgia as it supplied everything from meats to barrels of bulk feed. Also, the store served as a distribution center for farms around the area to drop off their harvest of beans, milk, and the like, to be transported north to St. Albans. Besides providing the history, here, Doris supplied many photographs relating to these sites and events.

Doris also passed on information regarding the flooding and ice damage at the Lamoille River and how it affected the community around it. In particular, she told of the 1927 flood which her husband, Jed, witnessed. He spoke of seeing a covered bridge floating down the Lamoille and a family on the Milton side of the river waving frantically for help then rescued by Milton community members. Doris provided many photographs taken of this devastating flood, too. Commercially, the flooding became the demise of the economy in East Georgia.

Cont’d Pg. 6...

Did you know…?

HARRIET RHODES was the first Franklin County Homemaker’s Extension Agent and served as such from the mid-1920’s through the mid-1930’s. But to make this service even more effective, she started homemakers groups in several towns. These groups were given “classes” or workshops in residents’ homes for teaching the latest methods, tips, and expertise in areas relating to crafts, sewing, baking, canning, decorating, health, first aid, safety, and more.

In the area of canning, she revolutionized a whole new method of sterilizing jars and storing the produce in them. To read more about Ms. Rhodes, you can find it in the “GEORGIA MEMORIES” 1930-1939, Vol. IV book at the Georgia Library located in the rear in the Georgia history section.
Continued from Page 3...

contain these. Peter also pointed out that by going to the Georgia Library, one could look at the Beers Atlas to see where some of these springs used to exist but are no longer.

Duane Chase, whose hobby is collecting these bottles, presented many diverse samples with different colors and codes imbedded in them to identify what particular mineral or chemical deposits they contained. Some used alcohol-based elixirs to bolster the restive features of encouraging “wellness” in the time of antique medicine. There was a great deal of information, too, regarding the boxes used to store these bottles, the corking, embossing, and more. Quite absorbing!

Besides the many locations Peter pointed out to the audience that some of Georgia’s residents might live near one—perhaps in their own back yards! Still others have now disappeared - or folks just didn’t know that the spring on their property might be one that has minerals. The minerals in these springs are said to have great “healing” powers and even many spa vacation hotels advertised these springs at their locations, to bring in folks from all over. In the earlier days – the 1800’s and early 1900’s - it was all the fashion for vacationers to indulge in these revitalizing spas. Peter provided handouts to show where some of these mineral springs could be found. It was great fun to imagine that our own springs in Georgia have these wonderful “gifts of healing” powers.

►GHOSTS OF THE OLD CLINE HOMESTEAD
OCTOBER 12

Christine Orellana and Jonathan Tether made a wonderful and fascinating presentation of Christine’s home located on the Cline Road in Georgia. The main building was constructed in 1839 or so and was the farm house of a very busy working farm. There was no water or electricity, then. However, this house has since been restored and remodeled, though some of the original structure still exists. When Christine and her family bought the home, the part of the house which is now the living room had no floor - grass was literally growing there. Also, what was really captivating were the tales she told the visitors about the “ghosts” that live there. Chris and Jon, family members, experienced the presence of these ghosts when, one morning, they were both shaken from their sleep. This “shaking” continued at least once a month for quite awhile. During the farm renovating, Chris would go back to the house to get water, only to find it flowing “all by itself!”

Christine and Jon had a large party when her mother-in-law came to visit, and a drinking glass shattered right where it stood as if it had “exploded” There was a painting in the archway and it fell off the wall for no reason. Christine continued with other strange, unexplained occurrences. After her testament, she and Jon gave all a tour of the house pointing out the different changes and renovations that were made throughout. They noted the house’s physical history and where some of the unusual phenomenon took place, as well. It was unbelievable how much history lay behind these structures—the house and the farm—which included the time of the Civil War. This tour was a huge hit and a memorable one for all those who were there!
GENEALOGY HUNTERS—TIPS
(Files are located in the Georgia History Section - Rear of the Georgia Library)

Some tips on locating and researching genealogy information.

EIGHT EASY SOURCES:

► In the vertical file (right side set of files), there are three genealogical files in alphabetical order from Abel to Wood.
► At the book collection, just to the left of these files, there is a shelf with family books from Bliss to Purmont and perhaps as far as Torry.
► On this same bookshelf, you will find a book by Arlene Martell called “86 Families of Georgia” from Abel to Wood. This book is necessary if your family is one of them.
► Among our reference books is one called “Cemeteries of Georgia.” This will tell you where all of the gravestones of the people in Georgia are located and their epitaphs.
► Now, if you are losing hope at this point because you have as yet been unsuccessful in your search, check the vertical files on the left side – across from the genealogical files. They are mostly listed by subject; a few are listed by proper names.
► Behind the vertical files there are maps of Georgia. The Walling Map of 1857 and the Beers Atlas of 1871 show who was living there.
► Abby Heminway’s index with hundreds of Vermont names may show some that you are looking for. It is an index for the five volumes. The librarian may have to borrow it from another library.
► We are getting to the last local resources. Try the indexes to the Georgia Town Histories and the book, “The History of Georgia”, Vol. I and Vol. II. The indexes and listings are located in the “History of Georgia” book, Volume II, at the end.

If you still have found nothing, it is possible that your ancestors never lived in Georgia. However, if you firmly believe they did, contact Peter Mallett, 1777 Iron Gate Road, Cambridge, VT 05444. He guarantees his work and there is no charge.

FEATURE STORY—Continued from Page 4…

Peter Mallett writes as follows: “Doris lived in the same house on the road to Fairfax north of the underpass her entire life. On page 201 of the 1991 annual Georgia Town History there is an excellent biography of Doris. Her genealogy appears in Arlene Martell’s fine book, ‘Families of Georgia.’ Her contributions to the 32 annual Georgia Town Histories are many. Her major gifts to the Georgia...

GHS PROGRAM LINE UP—2012 SEASON

“DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER: A Vermonter for the World”
Wed., May 16, 7:00 p.m.—Georgia Public Library
A living history presented by Helene Lang — tells the story of this incredible writer and author of forty books of fiction and non-fiction. Her purpose was to assail discrimination, intolerance, brutality, and fraud. Program provided by the Vermont Humanities Council.

Free and open to all. Handicap accessible.

GEORGIA FIRE DEPARTMENT—History & Tour
Wed., June 13, 7:00 p.m.—Georgia Fire Department Community Room
Dick McGrath will present the background and history of the Georgia Fire Department in its beginning and what it has become, today. Great slides and handouts with some interesting trivia. Free and open to all. Handicap accessible.

TWO HISTORICAL CHURCHES OF GEORGIA—TOUR
(United Methodist & Georgia Plains Baptist Churches)
Sat., July 21, 10:00 a.m.—United Methodist Church (to start tour).
Come and join us for a tour of two of Georgia’s wonderful, history-rich churches—United Methodist Church, corner of Carpenter Hill Road and Ethan Allen Hwy., first, followed by the Plains Baptist Church.

Free and open to all.

FINAL CEMETERY TOUR
Sat., Aug. 18, 10:00 a.m.—Rain or Shine
This tour will be held to observe the last of Georgia’s cemeteries which we have not yet toured. Follow our guides from site to site and learn fascinating facts about some of the town’s past citizens buried there. Meet at the Georgia Municipal Building at 10:00 a.m. to start the tour.

Free and open to all.

“OLD COUNTRY FIDDLER—Charles Ross Taggart’
Wed., Sept. 19, 7:00 p.m., Georgia Public Library
Adam Boyce portrays Mr. Taggart near the end of his career, c. 1936, sharing recollections on his life, with some live fiddling and humorous sketches interspersed. Program provided by the Vermont Humanities Council.

Free and open to all. Handicap accessible

BRICK SCHOOL MUSEUM & GORDON’S MILL TOUR
Sat., Oct. 13, 10:00 a.m., Brick School Museum (to start tour)
Come and join us and see and learn about some of our wonderful collections, of Georgia artifacts, large and small.

Free and open to all.

For more information, please contact
Sara Vester—(802) 524-3996
- IN MEMORIAM -

DORIS LADD SHEPARD
1909—2011

We, at the Georgia Historical Society, wish to convey our sincerest sympathy for the loss of a great past Georgia resident and historian for the Town, Doris Ladd Shepard. She has overwhelmingly made many contributions through her written accounts and remembrances, her treasured photographs from the past, her generous donations of memorabilia and those great photos and postcards, and tireless help in researching Georgia’s history—particularly relating to East Georgia.

Doris’ devotion to making an educational goal of Georgia history for Georgia citizens, visitors, and researchers, will be treasured for time to come.

We all owe a true debt of gratitude to this dedicated and devoted historian. It is, indeed, a great sadness to lose such a caring individual. Hats off to you, Doris!

The Georgia Historical Society.

1926 Covered Bridge Over Lamoille River in East Georgia

This bridge washed away in the Flood of 1927.

Photo courtesy of the Burlington Free Press – Articles on the 1927 Flood.

Historical Society were great, including the East Georgia Post Office and the fife of Ramson Smith played by him during the Civil War.”

I might add that Doris gave her entire postcard collection, with notes explaining the history relating to each of the photos on them, to Peter – and which Peter has most generously donated to the Georgia Historical Society. Peter also added, “Doris Ladd Shepard was a native of East Georgia for over 100 years. We will miss this remarkable woman. She contributed so much to our heritage.”

On September 28, 1992 Doris Shepard bid farewell to her home in East Georgia.
**IN MEMORIAM**

**FREDERIC B. NEWTON**

1919—2011

The Georgia Historical Society wishes to offer their sincere condolences to all of Frederic's family, friends, and the citizens of Georgia. He made countless contributions to Georgia’s history through his generous witness and testimony of life in Georgia. He told of the times, challenges, confrontations, changes and blessings relating to farming and educational opportunities—as he experienced them. Because of Frederic's generous efforts to tell his story of his life for Georgia’s history, the citizens and visitors, researchers and teachers will continue to have access to this wonderful history of the days of old and the importance of agriculture to the livelihood of these folks far into the future.

We are honored to have had Frederic as a part of the Georgia Historical Society’s team where he was so generous in giving of himself and his time. We will all truly miss him.

The Georgia Historical Society

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On October 11, 2011, Peter Mallett wrote of Fred Newton the following:

“Fred was born in Georgia and lived on Route 7 with his parents, Ralph and Mabel Newton. During the twenties and thirties he attended the Georgia schools and helped on the farm. With his fantastic memories, he shared his stories with the Georgia Historical Society. A complete set of stories appears in book form titled ‘Georgia Memories 1930-1939’ in the rear of the Georgia Library, in the Georgia history section.

These stories are wonderful! They will bring back memories to the old and entertain others. He died in Prescott, Arizona, September 1, 2011, leaving his wife, Kay Stanhope Newton, formerly of St. Johnsbury, and several children. Fred will long be remembered by his stories of growing up on a small Georgia farm during the depression years or ‘days of darkness’ as Fred called them. The reader will be fascinated by these exciting tales.”

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**For the record:**

It has only recently come to our attention that in the Newsletter – SPRING, Vol. 2, No.1, regarding the passing of Rupert Blatchley, it should have stated that he died on Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2008 and not on Friday, January 18, 2008. Our sincerest apologies to Mary, Rupert’s wife, and all the Blatchley family for this error. Our hope is that this mistake should not, in anyway, diminish Rupert's very special contributions to Georgia’s history.
EDITOR’S NOTE: This issue of the GHS Newsletter is a combination of the Fall of 2011 and the Spring of 2012 issues due to unforeseeable time constraints. We will continue to have the Fall of 2012 issue, hopefully, without the constraints we had this season. Thanks for your consideration. as always. Dee

*Special thanks to Kim Asch, Sara Vester, and Peter Mallett for their contributions to this issue of the Fall/Winter/Spring Newsletter. Georgia Historical Society Newsletter Editor, Dee McGrath

ANSWERS – GEORGIA HISTORY QUIZ

1. c. 5. Right—You read the paper.
2. b. 6. Right—You know your town.
3. c. 7. Right—You know your town very well!
4. b. 8. Right—You own the Town!
5. a. (8 Right—You will be the next president of the GHS!)

HOW DID YOU DO?

GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Georgia Municipal Building, Ethan Allen Highway—
First Wednesday of each month from May through October (included) at 7:00 pm

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Date ___________________________ “☐ Renewal” “☐ New Member”

Membership is $15.00 ANNUALLY or $100.00 LIFETIME. Please fill out the information below along with your donation and mail to: Georgia Historical Society, Treasurer: Laurie Broe, P.O. Box 2072, Georgia, VT, 05468. If you have any questions, please call Colin Conger - 524-6311, Dee McGrath-893-4853, or Cindy Ploof-782-8808.

Name ________________________________________________________________

Address ________________________________________________________________

Phone Number ___________________________ E-Mail: ___________________________

I am interested in (please check all that apply):

☐ Publicity ☐ Parades ☐ Paper Memorabilia ☐ Assisting with Genealogical Research
☐ Board of Directors ☐ Other: _____________________________________________

☐ I’m able to (i.e., type, write, help in research, etc.) ☐ I’m unable to participate, but I support the Society’s efforts and programs.
WE NEED NEW MEMBERS! BETTER, YET, BECOME A MEMBER OF THE BOARD. WON’T YOU JOIN US AND BE A PART OF PROVIDING GEORGIA’S WONDERFUL HISTORY TO ALL.

(See form on reverse side for more information.)