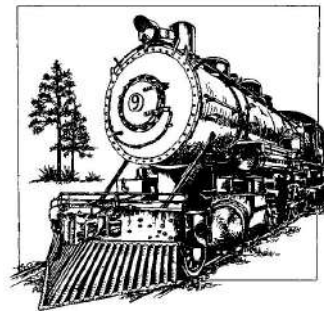


# OKEFENOKEE HERITAGE CENTER NEWSLETTER



July  
August  
September  
2023

## *In Memory of Susan Lott Clark*



Susan Lott Clark, 98, passed away peacefully at her home on May 2, following a long and productive life. She was preceded in death over 20 years ago by her husband, Dr. S. William Clark, Jr., a prominent ophthalmologist in Waycross. She was the mother of Dr. William Clark III and Dr. Jim Clark and daughter of the late Mr. & Mrs. Dan Lott, Sr. and was a descendant of two of the pioneer founding families of Waycross, Dr. & Mrs. Daniel Lott, and Mr. & Mrs. William Stacy Bailey.

Born January 12, 1925, in Waycross, Georgia, this remarkable lady stood squarely on the shoulders of those who came before her and made an incredible impact in local and state humanities and other activities since that time. She authored, co-authored, and published (with assistance in the latter from her husband) 5 hardback books and numerous other smaller paperback publications and made other positive contributions to her communities, as outlined below.

Sue attended public schools, graduating from Waycross High School in 1942. She earned the BA degree, cum laude, from Wesleyan College, Macon, Georgia, in 1946 with a major in Spanish and also the MA degree in Spanish, from Emory University, Atlanta in 1950. Her formal education also included a post graduate course in journalism and creative writing at the University of Georgia in Athens. Interestingly, her mother and maternal grandmother were also college graduates, in the 1800's.

During her college years, she became one of the initial financial contributors to the local drive to create the Okefenokee Swamp Park during the 1945 campaign. She continued to be a loyal advocate for the swamp for the rest of her life.

After college graduation, she was employed as a field representative for Wesleyan College and later taught in the Fulton County School system.

On December 27, 1948, she and Dr. Spurgeon William Clark, Jr. were married in Waycross. They lived in Atlanta for the first seven years, where he completed the work for his medical degree and specialty training in ophthalmology at Emory and Grady Hospital.

They moved to Waycross in July of 1956 when he opened his private practice here. Both of them became active in church and community service projects.

"Miss Sue" was a lifelong member of First United Methodist Church of Waycross, where she served as Trustee, Sunday and Vacation Bible School teacher, leader of a woman's circle, and as chair of the Historic Activities Committee for 28 years. In 2007, she co-authored *The History of First United Methodist Church 2007* with Bunny Winge.

In 1967, she served as the state president of the Women's Auxiliary to the Medical Association of Georgia. She was subsequently appointed by different GA Governors to the State Traffic Safety Militia (1970-72), the State Commission on the Status of Women (1973-74), and to the Georgia Forest Research Council (1978-87).

Locally, she served as president of the Waycross Service League, the American Association of University Women, the Holly Interests Club, the Williams Heights Elementary School and Waycross High School PTAs and the James Dye Foundation of South Georgia State College.

In 1971, she joined her husband and sons in a family medical mission trip to Mombasa, Kenya, where she actively engaged in Christian teaching.

In 1972, while sorting through keepsakes from her mother, she discovered a treasure-trove box of handwritten letters that revealed detailed and intriguing communications between her maternal great-grandparents, during their courtship and afterwards, that were written between 1851 and 1870. These letters formed the backbone of her first real book, *Southern Letters and Life in the mid-1800's*, published in 1993 and containing 214 letters, 211 illustrations and over 150 referenced citations. (continued)

## OHC Calendar

<b>July</b>	Scott Beahan ~ Art Gallery	
1-	Local Fare Market	10AM
4-	Independence Day	
9-	Scott Beahan Art Reception	3-5PM
10-14-	OHC Summer Art Camp Wk #1	9AM
12-	OHC Board of Trustees Meeting	12PM
17-21-	OHC Summer Art Camp Wk #2	9AM
18-	OHC Photogra Guild w/Beahan	6PM
23-	Summer Art Camp Reception	3-5PM
25-	OHC Art Guild w/ Preston King	5:30PM
26-	Executive Board Meeting	5PM
27-	Tourism	10AM
28-	OHC History Guild	5PM
29-	Okefenokee Opry w/Coldwater	7PM
Exhibit	Legends of the Okefenokee	JULY
1-	Pickin' in the Pines ~ Venue	6PM
5-	Local Fare Market	10AM
6-	Bob & Diane Brown Reception	3-5PM
12-	Painting with Preston Workshop	10AM-4PM
16-	OHC Photography Guild	6PM
16-	Pickin' in the Pines	6PM
22-	OHC Art Guild w/Browns	5:30PM
23-	OHC Exec. Board	12PM
24-	Tourism meeting	10AM
25-	OHC History Guild	6PM
Exhibit	History of the Masons	AUGUST
<b>Sept</b>	Ben Smith Art Competition	
2-	Local Fare Market	10AM
5-	Pickin' in the Pines	6PM
6-	OHC Board of Trustees Meeting	12PM
11-	Patriot Day	2PM
19-	OHC Photography Guild	6PM
19-	Pickin' in the Pines	6PM
22-	OHC History Guild	6PM
24-	Ben Smith Art Awards Recept.	3-5PM
26-	OHC Art Guild ~ Open Art	5:30PM
27-	Executive Board Meeting	5PM
28-	Toursim	10AM

## **NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR:**

Let's look back over the events of the last few months. It was fun to finally get the Waycross Class Ring back home from Scotland. What a story! How special it was to have Ron Crosby start both the 5k and the 1 mile Color Run races this year. An incredible man who will be greatly missed. May was Jewish American History month and Amanda Meyer had a wonderful exhibit in our Rotating Exhibit room. The Art Gallery showcased the Photography Guild, Georgia Artists with Disabilities and Preston King. Check out Preston King's workshop on August 12<sup>th</sup>. Our Author's Night was a huge success. As you know, our own Miss Sue passed away on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please take time to read the article honoring her amazing life. In her honor and memory, our annual OHC Birthday bash is now called Sue Clark Day! We are also changing the name of our Billy Bowlegs Society to the Sue Clark Society. After all, OHC would not be in existence without her vision and tenacity. Looking ahead, Old 9 and our red caboose are almost ready for the ribbon cutting with GATX. Stay tuned. Our guilds, April Lee's dance classes and Carol Hodges pottery classes are going strong. Coming up in our Art Gallery will be Scott Beahan, photographer, the Bob & Diane Brown Exhibition and the annual Ben Smith Art Competition. The Waycross Mural Project is going strong! Danny Barnes and Leslie Renew created an amazing exhibit called Legends of the Okefenokee. In August we will exhibit the history of the Masons in this area. OHC Summer Art Camp is set up and ready for the kids to have fun learning about art and being creative. Speaking of being creative! We have a ton of creative musicians in this area, so we thought what better way to spotlight them than to create a FREE music series we are calling the Okefenokee Opry! Our first event will be Saturday, July 29th featuring Tyler Hayes and his group "Coldwater" accompanied by many local musicians!! We will also have a bi-weekly event called "Pickin' in the Pines". Bring your instruments and join in with the pickin' and a-grinnin'!! Lots of fun activities at OHC.

The Okefenokee Heritage Center, we're on the right track!

*Carla Garrett Cornett, Executive Director*



### **Classes Offered:**

**Pottery Classes  
With Carol Hodges  
Thursdays at 6PM  
912-285-4260**

**Pop Fusion Dance  
with April Sheruing Lee  
Thursdays at 6pm  
912-281-2976**

*Special Thanks to:*



### **CHECK OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING!**

#### **OKEFENOKE HERITAGE CENTER SUMMER ART CAMP ~ 2023**



**Wk 1: July 10 - 14      Wk 2: July 17 - 21**  
**FOR AGES 5 - 15      MON - FRI 9AM - 12PM**  
**\$75 FOR NON- OHC MEMBERS OR \$65 FOR OHC MEMBERS.**  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 912-285-4260**  
**1460 N. AUGUSTA AVE.      WAYCROSS, GA 31503**  
**SEATING IS LIMITED SO SIGN UP TODAY!!**

#### **OKEFENOKEE OPRY**

**FREE Music Concert  
Saturday, July 29, 2023  
Okefenokee Heritage Center**

**Bring a chair  
7PM - 10PM**



**LOOKING  
FOR  
SPONSORS**





## WHAT'S HAPPENING! – CONT.

# WAYGREEN'S FARMER'S MARKET

Local Fare Market



LOCAL FROM  
THE SOURCE

1st Saturdays  
Okefenokee  
Heritage Center

More information  
waygreeninc@gmail.com

(continued from page 1)

Mrs. Clark was the founding organizer of two area museums, the Okefenokee Heritage Center (OHC) in 1975, which showcases the life and times of early and later-day Okefenokee-area and Waycross residents (including indigenous and African Americans) and Southern Forest World Environmental Center in 1981, which explores the native forests of Southeast Georgia and the many uses of forest products. In 2011 she wrote and published "The Unusual Story of the Okefenokee Heritage Center and Southern Forest World." It tells the compelling story of the creation of each through her eyes, has 656 pages with over 1,000 photos, and over 500 illustrations.

In 2008, with Deborah Bowen, she helped research and prepare the successful 188-page application to have the Lott Cemetery placed on the National Register of Historic Places and contributed to the resulting book *Historic Lott Cemetery*, published in 2009.

Also in 2008, she joined forces in genealogical research with nephew Don & Jan Webb to study her paternal ancestors and then published *Lott-Bailey Families and Their Relationships to Waycross, Ware County, Georgia*. It spans 512 pages.

In 2017, she published the second edition of her cookbook: *Southern Ladies' and Men's Favorite Recipes and Stories about Food*.

At 92 years of age, "Miss Sue" at last published her autobiography, *Let's Talk About Me*, which reveals and illuminates delightful episodes about her life experiences.

The following recognitions were given to Mrs. Clark: "Waycross Woman of the Year Award" (1969), Wesleyan College Alumnae Award for Distinguished Achievement (1970), Silver Fawn Award (1972, Council-level Boy Scouts of America), Bicentennial Award of Merit in Establishing the Okefenokee Heritage Center (1976), Waycross-Ware County Chamber of Commerce Jack Williams "Outstanding Community Service Award" (1977), Listed in *Historic Georgia Mothers* (1776 – 1976), Southeast GA Area Planning and Development Commission: "Liston Elkins Award for Distinguished Service to Southeast Georgia" (1981), Georgia Forestry Association: "Wise Owl" for Outstanding Service to Forestry in Georgia (1982), GA Association of Museums and Galleries: "State Patron Award for Outstanding Leadership" (1983), Woodmen of the World: "Conservation Award" (1987), Waycross Kiwanis Club: "A.J. Miller Award" (2010), and Waycross Hebrew Center: "Morris Jacobson Brotherhood Award" (2016)

She was a member of four national heritage societies: the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Georgia (Chair, Waycross Town Committee), the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Mayflower Society, and the Jamestowne Society.

The Okefenokee Heritage Center would like to thank all of those who contributed in her memory. She was an incredible lady and will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.



# Okefenokee Heritage Center

1460 N. Augusta Avenue  
Waycross, GA 31503  
912-285-4260

[www.okefenokeeheritagecenter.com](http://www.okefenokeeheritagecenter.com)

## OHC Mission Statement:

The Okefenokee Heritage Center is a cultural art center and local history museum for all people, which seeks to promote an appreciation of the arts and an increased understanding of history and development of the Okefenokee region through its cultural and educational programs, collections, and exhibitions.

*Proudly serving Atkinson, Bacon, Brantley, Charlton, Clinch, Coffee, Pierce & Ware.*



## **OHC Board of Trustees 22/23**

Alan Jones, Chairman  
Danny Barnes, Vice Chair  
Stephen Winge, Vice Chair  
Judy Kurrasch, Treasurer  
Clint Bowman, Past Chair  
Mr. Joseph Johnson, Jr., Legal Counsel

*Nancy King	Allen Allnoch
* Dave Callaway	*John Jordan
Dale Wiley	Steve Strickland
Vicki Kuhbander	LaFerrell Barnes
Jeri Pearson	Isaac King
Jorah Mitchell	Kristy Foreman
Leslie Ranew	Robert Brown
* Denotes Life Member	*Dr. S. William Clark

### Ex Officio Members:

Dr. Brandon Carter, RESA  
Angela Carstens, Waycross Service League  
Greg Smith, City of Waycross

### Staff:

Carla Garrett Cornett, Executive Director  
Sherian Barnes, Office Manager  
Emma Worthington, Intern SGSC

**A special thanks to ALL of our  
OHC Members!!  
Thanks to YOU....  
“We’re on the right track”!**

## **Invite a friend to join the Okefenokee Heritage Center**

Individual	\$36
Family	\$60
Heritage Club	\$100
Sue Clark Society	\$200
Small Business	\$150
Business Sponsor	\$500
Corporate Sponsor	\$1,000
Corporate Partners	\$5,000

\* Join one of our many Guilds

**All donations are tax deductible**

## **RENT OUR SPACE**

You can rent the facilities at the Okefenokee Heritage Center for parties, reunions, etc.

Community Room	\$200
Community/Kitchen	\$250
Depot	\$300
The Venue	\$250
Warehouse/ Depot	\$400
Grounds	\$200

Tables & Chairs available for rent  
For more information call:  
912-285-4260

**Visit us on Facebook**  
For Updates on Events



**And on YouTube**  
For video interviews  
[okeheritage@gmail.com](mailto:okeheritage@gmail.com)

