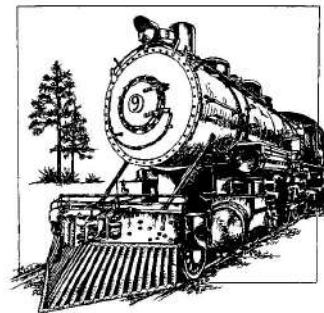


# OKEFENOKEE HERITAGE CENTER NEWSLETTER



October  
November  
December  
2023

## DID YOU KNOW?

### *When The "Waycross Victory" Ruled The High Seas*

Waycross and Ware County men and women did more than their share to aid the effort in World War II. A little known chapter in that effort was the building of the "Waycross Liberty." Many Ware Countians drove daily to Brunswick to work in the Brunswick Shipyards, but the city's namesake wasn't built in Brunswick, but in Baltimore.

The namesake of Waycross on the high seas, the S. S. Waycross Victory, 456 feet long, a sleek and speedy cargo ship vessel later to be converted to a troopship, will soon be ready to take her place on sea lanes to our armed forces overseas.

The "Waycross Victory" which was built at the Bethlehem-Fairfield Shipyard, Baltimore, Md., successfully passed a series of ridged tests on her trial trip in Chesapeake Bay.

For 9 ½ hours the "Waycross Victory" was put through her paces by a trial crew from the Bethlehem-Fairfield Shipyard. A painstaking crew of technical experts were continuously busy recording data taken from various measuring devices aboard the ship while a "show me" group of Maritime Commission inspectors passed on the performances indicated. When the ship finally rode into the shipyard dock around 4:30 p.m., she bore the stamp of approval of the Maritime Commission's trial board.

Included among the multitude of tests the "Waycross Victory" was called to execute were: a six hour endurance run, a "crash" stop which puts the ship's turbine engines in reverse immediately following a full speed ahead, anchor tests, rudder steering tests, and a full speed astern performance.

Capt. Carl Norman, who will command the "Waycross Victory" was aboard the vessel during its recent trial run and was a most interesting passenger.

The ship was the first of a series of Victory ships, which are now being named for towns with a population of 10,000 or over.

Capt. Norman, Swedish by birth, does not retain any accent of his native tongue. He has been to sea since he was 11 years old and has been through a number of harrowing experiences. During World War II he was 2<sup>nd</sup> officer of the first ship officially known to have been torpedoed off the Atlantic Coast. (continued)



## OHC Calendar

### OCT. BEN SMITH ART SHOW

3-	Pickin in the Pines	6PM
4-	OHC Board of Trustees meeting	12PM
6-	B-29 Event Dough Boy Park	10AM
7-	Local Fare Market	10AM
8-	Thurston Art Gallery Reception	2-5PM
12-14	Gram Parson's Guitar Pull	
17-	OHC Photography Guild	6PM
17-	Clover Heritage	4:30PM
17-	Pickin in the Pines	6PM
19-	Pumpkin Fest Downtown	
24-	OHC Art Guild	5:30PM
25-	Executive Board Meeting	5PM
27-	OHC History Guild	6PM

### NOV. VETERANS DAY EXHIBIT

1-	OHC Board of Trustees Mtg	12PM
4-	Local Fare Market	10AM
7-	Pickin in the Pines	6PM
11-	Veteran's Day Red, White, & Blue Color Run	8AM
11-	Veteran's Day Program	11AM
16-	Clover Heritage	4:30PM
21-	Pickin in the Pines	6PM
23-	Thanksgiving	
29-	Executive Board Meeting	5PM

### DEC. UP & COMING ART SHOW

2-	Christmas in the Cross	9-3PM
3-	Up and Coming Art Reception	3-5PM
6-	Board Meeting	12PM
7-	Pearl Harbor Day	
16-	"I'll Be Home for Christmas"	
25-	Christmas	
27-	Executive Board Meeting	5PM

**NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR:**

What a very busy 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter at OHC, in July we had the Swamp Legends exhibit in the rotating exhibit room, Scott Beahan's wonderful Photography Exhibit in the Art Gallery, OHC Summer Art Camp, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Okefenokee Opry with Coldwater!! Then in August the Art Gallery housed the Brown Ink Art Exhibition, with Bob and Diane Brown's amazing art, the Masons History Exhibit, Preston King's Pastel workshop and our Inaugural Pickin' in the Pines. And let's not forget Hurricane Idaila! We are still cleaning up, but we are blessed there was no damage to OHC. September was the Judge Ben Smith Art Competition and Exhibit which will remain until the end of October, and the OHC Quilt Guild is BACK!! They are meeting quarterly, but it was wonderful to have them back at OHC. And who could forget the amazing donation from GATX for the renovation of the OHC Caboose. Come out and see it!

Coming up in October we will have the Roland Thurston Art Gala with reception on October 8<sup>th</sup> and Pickin' in the Pines is the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays. The B-29 75<sup>th</sup> Remembrance will be at Doughboy Park, the 26<sup>th</sup> annual Graham Parsons Guitar Pull will be at the Fairgrounds. November looks to be a busy month at OHC with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Veterans Day Red, White & Blue Color Run at the airport and afterwards we will have the Annual Veterans Day Celebration at OHC with a delicious lunch being served at the Southern Forest World by Bertha Sue Dixon. Come out and see the Veterans Art Show and Exhibit the whole month of November. Our much-anticipated 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas in the 'Cross will be the first Saturday in December with arts and crafts booths from all over the area. And the Art Gallery will once again host the Nancy King Up and Coming Art Show, featuring Middle to High School students. If you know a student who is an artist have them contact OHC for details. Visit our FB page for updates of event and activities.... And stay tuned for details on our annual "I'll Be Home for Christmas" event!

The Okefenokee Heritage Center, we're on the right track!  
*Carla Garrett Cornett, Executive Director*



**WAYGREEN'S FARMER'S MARKET**  
 Local Fare Market

**LOCAL FROM THE SOURCE**  
 1st Saturdays  
 Okefenokee Heritage Center  
 1400 N. AUGUSTA AVE,  
 Waycross, GA  
 More information  
 waygreeninc@gmail.com

*Special Thanks to:*



**CHECK OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING!**

**Saturday Nov. 11th** Okefenokee Heritage Center

**Red, White, & Blue!**  
 Color Run 5K

**Waycross-Ware County Airport**

**Veterans Day 2023** [www.okefenokeeheritagecenter.org](http://www.okefenokeeheritagecenter.org)

**VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION!!**  
**Red, White & Blue Color Run ~ 8AM**  
 Waycross-Ware County Airport  
**Veterans Day Program ~ 11am**  
**OKEFENOKEE HERITAGE CENTER**  
**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2023**  
 For more info: 912-285-4260



**Pickin' in the Pines**

**1st & 3rd Tuesdays**

**Roland Thurston Art Gala**

**Sunday, October 8th ~ 2PM - 5PM**  
 Okefenokee Heritage Center



## WHATS HAPPENING! – CONT.

(continued from page 1)

A Japanese submarine during this war torpedoed his ship from under him and set him adrift for 8 days on a raft. One of the lifeboats containing 24 of the crew was adrift for 30 days and had only 5 survivors.

The captain made 12 trips to the Normandy beachhead on the “Louis Kussuth,” a Liberty ship, and on the last trip it struck a mine. Fortunately, the Captain made port and with repairs they sailed the ship back to the United States. Captain Norman is now ready to take over the “Waycross Victory,” expressing himself as more than satisfied on the performance of the ship and nothing the splendid location of the Victory’s officers’ quarters.

The “Waycross Victory” has been delivered to the U. S. Maritime Commission and it will be boarded by A. H. Bull & Co., Inc., The Master of the “Waycross Victory” will be Capt. Carl Norman and the Chief Engineer is R. W. Kean – both having had long and commendable records at sea.

The keel for the “Waycross Victory” was laid on June 1, 1945; she was launched on July 20, 1945; and turned over to the Maritime Commission on August 25, 1945; making a total of 74 working days from keel laying to delivery.

The “Waycross Victory” was converted to a troopship; the conversion work being done under a War Shipping Administration contract, and will consist essentially in changes to provide to troop accommodations. These include a gallery, additional food refrigeration facilities, the installation of 19 independent ventilating systems requiring approximately 25 tons of duct-work, and new plumbing, heating, fresh water and sanitary systems. The hatch opening of the ship’s five holds will be reduced by about one-third to provide for access ladder to the various berthing areas. Seven hundred tons of sand is being placed in the ship’s bottom in addition to a 250-ton cement block on the main deck to improve stability and minimizing rolling of the ship at sea. In order for the cargo space to be quickly transformed into troop berthing, provisions are being made to install tubular stanchions, tiers of bunks will be slung to provide sleeping quarters for the troops.

The S. S. Waycross Victory served as a troop ship until April 25, 1946 at which time it was declared surplus and was consigned to the USNC Reserve Fleet at Hudson River, NJ. The ship was taken to Constable Hook, NJ on February 17, 1947, where it was sold on March 11, 1947 to Aemement Deppe SA; the selling price was \$908,082.56.

- Larry Purdom



### CHRISTMAS IN THE 'CROSS

**Saturday, December 2, 2023**

**~ 9 AM to 3 PM ~**

**OKEFENOCKE HERITAGE CENTER**

14 60 N. AUGUSTA AVE.

For more information call: 912-285-4260 email: okeheritage@gmail.com

NANCY KING

"UP AND COMING YOUTH ART SHOW"

**DECEMBER 2023**

Middle & High School age students

Reception Sunday, December 3rd ~ 3PM - 5PM

Okefenokee Heritage Center

1460 N. Augusta Avenue

912-285-4260

okeheritage@gmail.com



GATX Ribbon Cutting L-R: Danny Barnes, Steve Strickland, Carla Cornett, Faye Johnson, Phillip Bryant, T.G. Lee and Ethan Cox.



Judge Ben Smith Art Competition 2023 Winners L to R: Artists, Katie Leggett, Bob Brown, Lisa Lowary, Cathy Janes, Carol Hodges, Steve Sikes, Pamela Sikes and OHC Executive Director, Carla Cornett (not pictured, Debbie Dean and Deanna Hatfield)

# Okefenokee Heritage Center

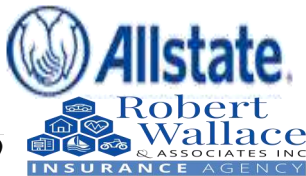
1460 N. Augusta Avenue  
Waycross, GA 31503  
912-285-4260

[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 23/24**

Alan Jones, Chairman  
Danny Barnes, Vice Chair  
Stephen Winge, Vice Chair  
Judy Kurrasch, Treasurer  
Jeri Pearson, Secretary  
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
Jorah Mitchell	Isaac King
Leslie Ranew	Kristy Foreman
* Denotes Life Member	Robert Brown
	*Dr. S. William Clark

## Ex Officio Members:

Dr. Brandon Carter, RESA  
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)

