

# OKEFENOKEE HERITAGE CENTER NEWSLETTER

## Waycross Sesquicentennial & Ware County Bicentennial When Waycross Was Tebeauville

Those who believe wiregrass history began with Waycross would do well to return to those days of yesteryear.

Older than all the rest of course is Waresboro, a farming community that, save for a desire not to have the railroads disturbing their livestock, might have become the center of South Georgia.

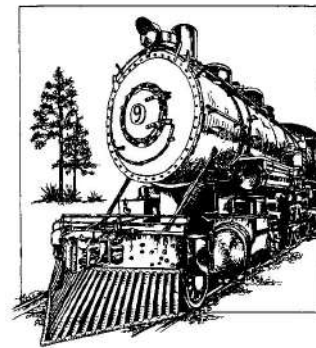
But city fathers didn't want that, and later in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, folks began to congregate nearer the railroad, which, as we all know, came to be centered seven miles to the east.

Drive down to "Old Nine" and journey over this sometimes rough and tumble area. Head west over to Johanna and Bertha streets.

There you will find the beginnings of Waycross.

Here the Pendleton family settled in the area we now call "Old Nine," since it was the ninth station on the rail line. "Pendleton" might have become the name of this town, but shortly thereafter Mr. Pendleton took the train to Savannah and caused the little hamlet to be named after his beloved grandfather, Frederic Edmund Tebeau. Thus, during the Civil War, the village was known as "Tebeauville" and it was to Tebeauville that slaves from coastal plantations, such as Brunswick's Broadfield, were brought for "safe-keeping" during the war.

Although Tebeauville never "died out," the center of town eventually moved a mile to the north, where Waycross began, centered at Joseph McQuaig's log cabin which was located where the present-day train depot sits. There on June 21, 1880, Dr. William Folks, along with Col. Haines, other railroad men, and the commissioners of Waycross broke ground directly in front of McQuaig's cabin for the "Waycross Short Line to Florida" and thusly, the ways were made to cross. (McQuaig's living descendants include Mrs. Dorthy Purdom of Waycross and Mrs. Katharine Juvik of Jacksonville. McQuaig Street that runs beside the Elks Lodge honors the contributions of this pioneer settler who moved the home place there, and owned and operated the grist mill for many years that was originally erected by Mr. Stencil.)



January  
February  
March



## OHC Calendar

### JAN Nancy King Up & Coming Art Gallery

- 10- OHC Board of Trustees mtg 12PM
- 15- MLK Day
- 16- OHC Photography Guild 6PM
- 23- OHC Art Guild 5:30PM
- 24- OHC Executive Board 5PM
- 26- OHC History Guild 6PM
- 30- Clover Heritage Club 4:30PM

### FEB Black History/Churches Art Gallery

- 4- Historic Churches Art Reception 3-5PM
- 6- Clover Heritage Club 4:30PM
- 7- OHC Board Meeting 6PM
- 12- Black Heritage Presentation 6PM
- 14- Valentine's Day
- 17- Okefenokee Opry ~ Danny Dawson Band 6-9PM
- 19- President's Day
- 20- OHC Photography Guild 6PM
- 23- OHC History Guild 6PM
- 27- OHC Art Guild 5:30PM
- 28- OHC Executive Board Mtg 5PM

### MAR Steve Bean Youth Art Art Gallery

- 3- Waycross Sesquicentennial
- 6- Board Meeting 12PM
- 7- OHC Learning Series 10:30AM & 6PM
- 9&10 Painting with Preston Workshop 10AM
- 12- Clover Heritage Club 4:30PM
- 17- Steve Bean Art Reception 3-5PM
- 19- OHC Photography Guild 6PM
- 22- OHC History Guild 6PM
- 26- OHC Art Guild 5:30PM
- 27- OHC Executive Board Mtg 5PM
- 31- Easter Sunday

## NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Happy New Year!! We hope 2024 is a very happy and productive year for you and your families! The past few months were filled with events and activities at OHC. In October, The Roland Thurston Art Exhibit was a huge success and his legacy lives on. And a fun time was had by all at the annual Pumpkin Fest downtown. November was full of events honoring our veterans, with our Veterans Day Red, White & Blue Color Run, followed by the Veterans Day Celebration and lunch at Southern Forest World. In December we had our 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas In the 'Cross. The day was rainy, but that didn't stop the shoppers. The Okefenokee Heritage Center is gearing up with events for a FABULOUS 2024 City of Waycross Sesquicentennial and Ware Counties Bicentennial! In January our Guilds will be starting a new year of wonderful presentations. Please visit the OHC FB page for more information. In February, to honor of Black History Month, the OHC Art Gallery will be hosting an art exhibition spotlighting the local Historic Black Churches. Art Gallery director and artist, Bob Brown will be coordinating this exhibition. We are so excited to have the Danny Dawson Band to perform for our first Okefenokee Opry of 2024!! If you like Classic Country, you will love Danny Dawson! Our Art Gallery in March will be filled with student art from all over the area at our Annual Steve Bean Youth Art Show! Also, Preston King will be offering another art workshop in March. And stay tuned for our brand new OHC Learning Series the first Thursday of each month, from March through October. The line-up is AMAZING!! Be on the lookout for the upcoming OHC Rotating Exhibit Room exhibits. Don't forget "Pickin' in the Pines", 1st & 3rd Tuesdays! There's always something new to see at OHC!

A BIG Thank you to our OHC Sponsors, Members and Volunteers! We could NOT do any of this without you!

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

*Carla Garrett Cornett, Executive Director*



## CHECK OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING!

**Annual Steve Bean Youth Art Show**  
— March 2024 —  
Presented by the Okefenokee Heritage Center

Artwork will be on display in the gallery in March at the Okefenokee Heritage Center's art gallery.

All art mediums and styles welcome!

Elementary - Highschool Students

\* Entries must be submitted at the Okefenokee Heritage Center at 1460 N Augusta Ave. Waycross by February 24th.

Art Reception to follow gallery show on March 17th from 3-5pm.

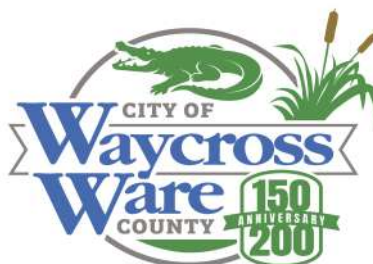
For more information:  
912-285-4260 | okeheritage@gmail.com

**DANNY DAWSON**  
Facebook.com/TheDannyDawsonBand

**"Okefenokee Opry"**  
with the **Danny Dawson Band**  
Saturday, February 17th ~ 6pm - 9pm  
Okefenokee Heritage Center ~ 1460 N. Augusta Ave.

**Black History Month**  
OHC Art Gallery  
Historic Local Black Churches

Special Thanks to:





## WHATS HAPPENING! – CONT.

(continued from page 1)



If you want to find Tebeauville, that's easy, because on Friday, May 11, 1917, the Lyman Hall Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution erected a monument to Tebeauville and set it on a spot on the site of the home of Mr. Tebeau, maternal grandfather of the late Charles R. Pendleton.

To go there now is to glimpse only a brief shimmer of the activity that went on in this park on that fateful day. Today only modest residences surround the city block dedicated to the memory of Tebeauville.

There's no hint of the way things were, of the day when "numerous automobile parties" were organized to bring the celebrants to Old Nine for the dedication.

Despite disagreeable weather a large crowd came to witness the unveiling. The program for the ceremony included the singing of "America," an innovation by the Rev. W. H. Scruggs, and introduction of the speaker by the Volney Williams, editor of the Waycross Journal.

Mrs. J. L. Walker, regent of the DAR, then presented the tablet to Waycross Mayor Scott Beaton. Mrs. Mary Parker and Mrs. J. L. Lott unveiled the tablet and the community closed with a group singing of the "Star Spangled Banner." Although time or vandalism has since removed the bronze plaque, it read, "On this site stood the old town of Tebeauville, erected 1917, by the Lyman Hall chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, Waycross, Georgia." Has anyone seen this tablet lately?

Interesting are the comments made by Mayor Beaton. "The good ladies (of the DAR) together with our entire population, rejoice in our city's past, and proudly preserve for future generations the beginning, and the early days of Waycross, when it was not "a crossing of the ways," but Tebeauville. What Waycross has done since the days of Tebeauville is well worth recording, not alone for what the past holds for us, but more as an inspiration to the present and future generations. When Waycross was Tebeauville... there were men who were filled with faith and could see the Waycross of today, and it is to the spirit of these men that the tablet is dedicated. There are those among us today who are too dull to feel the throbbing pulse of an intensely industrial life, but there are others of us who are sensitive to our opportunities and are dreaming big things for the future of Waycross, and it is on behalf of this latter class that I accept with thanks, in the name of the city, this tablet that is to mark for centuries the beginning of Waycross, "The Arcadia of South Georgia."

By, **Larry Purdom**



**Congratulations to the WINNERS of the 2023 Veterans Day Red, White & Blue Color Run!! Thank you to the Waycross-Ware County Airport for hosting us.**



**Thank you VETERANS for your service!! And special thanks to the Veterans Day Celebration keynote Speaker: Thomas A. Bragg, Retired Airborne Ranger (front row in uniform)**

# 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  
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*Dave Callaway	*John Jordan
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Leslie Ranew	Kristy Foreman
*Dr. S. William Clark	Robert Brown

\* Denotes Life Member

### Ex Officio Members:

Dr. Brandon Carter, RESA  
Greg Smith, City of Waycross  
Donna Cox, Waycross Service League

### Staff:

Carla Garrett Cornett, Executive Director  
Sherian Barnes, Office Manager

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

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For Updates on Events



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

