

MUSEUM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Officers and Executive Committee

President, Patsy Giles; 1st Vice President, T. Davy Shelton; 2nd Vice President, Martha N. Gibson; Secretary, Sally S. Kurrie; Treasurer, John R. Bennett; Past President, Ex Officio, Julie Smith; Anita Shelton

The Museum Calendar of Events is included in the standard printed issues of the newsletter

Lowndes County Historical Society & Museum

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Circa 1944: The Log House

The earliest confirmation we have found in the museum of citizenry being aware of coral fossils in and on the Withlacoochee River is the booklet of historical remembrances "Loch Laurel 1897-1997." It was compiled by the late Morris Smith, a life long historical society member, who donated a copy to the museum, ACQ #2009-81. The daughter Anne, in the *The Log House* article, was near deaf but an active Valdosta High student. She died tragically in the Winecoff Hotel fire. Eight other Valdosta coeds, Youth Assembly delegates, were to be at Winecoff Hotel that night but there had been a mix-up in reservations. We have a society newsletter on our LCHS website that includes this tragedy— see Newsletters: July, August, September 2011.

YESTERDAY & TODAY

Newsletter of
Lowndes County Historical Society

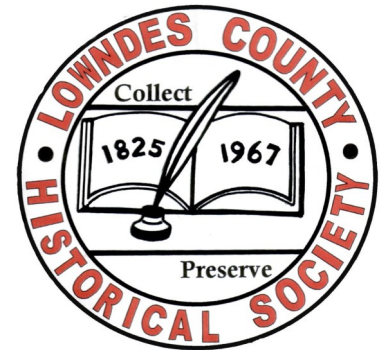
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Donald O. Davis

Museum Staff
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Executive Director.

Amy Brown
Textiles and Research.

Harry S. Evans
Dail Batchelor
Special Collections and Research

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The Log House: In about 1944, during World War 11, Frank and Lena Smith started on a new house, a rustic summer house, located next to the Big House. They had one daughter, Anne, and as she was growing up, they wanted to use the lake more. Construction lasted about a year. Frank took some workmen and cut cypress trees in nearby ponds, then stripped off the bark, and used them for building logs. Rocks from the Withlachoochee River were brought in for the fireplaces. Some of these rocks are coral and have several rare fossils imbedded in them. When finished, the house was a wonderful addition to the lake, with spacious rooms and wide porches.

Not long after the house was complete, a tragedy struck. Anne died in the Winecoff Hotel fire in Atlanta, in December, 1947. Frank and Lena were heavy with grief; still, they were brave enough to carry on, and did use the house for themselves and their guests for a number of years.

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