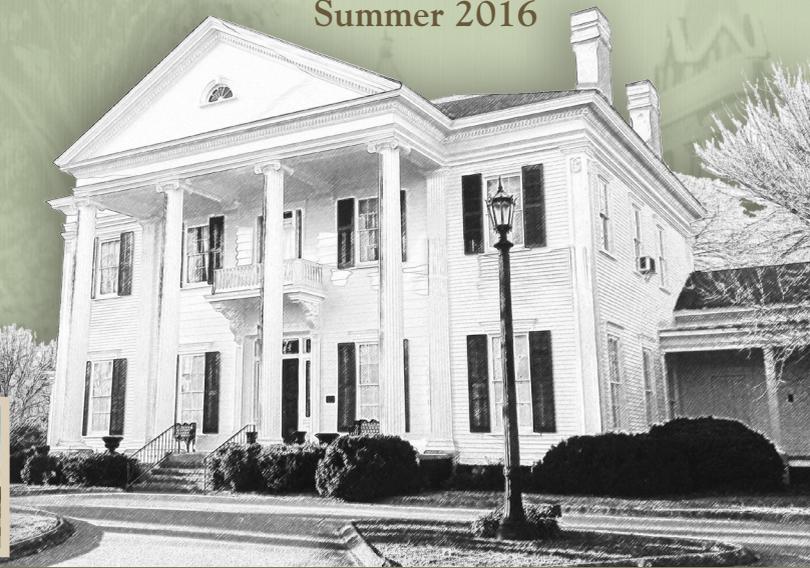


Summer 2016

GRIFFIN-SPALDING HISTORICAL SOCIETY & BAILEY-TEBAULT HOUSE

established 1969

Sharing the stories of Griffin's past, present, and future



633 Meriwether Street · P.O. Box 196 · Griffin, Georgia 30224 · 770-229-2432 · GriffinHistory.com · gshs196@gmail.com



A Night *at the* Opera

More than 150 people filled the Griffin Opera House on Tuesday, June 14, for the opportunity to get a behind-the-scenes look at this local landmark. Kicking off the newly established *Drink in the History* series, the Griffin-Spalding Historical Society teamed up with Opera House owner Woody Heath to welcome history lovers to this unique structure.

Built in 1894, in the same year that Enrico Caruso made his operatic debut, the Griffin Opera House was built by the Odd Fellows who maintained their meeting room on the upper floor. During much of its heyday, the building was known as the Olympic Theater. From minstrel shows to vaudeville to silent movies, The Opera House remained a popular spot through the 1920s. Unfortunately, the advent of talking movies signaled the demise of this beautiful structure.

With a new owner on the horizon, perhaps this beautiful building's next heyday is just around the corner.



(From top, left to right) The Angel clock is just one of the many decorative wooden statues that adorn the Opera House. (photo by Quimby Melton) Christy Todd, GSHS president, and Angelique Keb, vice president, welcome visitors to the Opera House and provide a little history of the building. (photo by Quimby Melton) The walls are literally filled with history. A former dressing room boasts the signatures of dozens of performers who graced the stage of this building. (photo by Quimby Melton) More than 150 people attended the first *Drink in the History*. (photo by Caroline Letson)

From the President

Dear GSHS Members,

As a middle school chorus teacher, I look forward to the slow summer months, where I can put my feet up by the pool and catch up on my stack of unread magazines. In reading this month's historic homes issue of Veranda, I was struck by a comment made by Editor in Chief Clinton Smith; "While we needn't mire ourselves in the past, we shouldn't forget it either. Our future depends on it." Already six months into the 2016 term, I am proud to say that this year's GSHS initiatives definitely adhere to this mindset. How can we look to the future to remember our past?



At the first meeting of this year's board of directors, a vote was made to expand our current structure to include the following committees: Preservation & Programming, Fundraising & Events, House, and Marketing. Each board member is required to serve on a committee, and additional members are pulled from the general membership. In just the few short months since the formation of this structure, many new initiatives have been implemented:

- Expansion of Membership Levels
- Addition of "Drinking In History," a new series of events that raise funds for preservation by mingling in Griffin's historic places
- Complete structural assessment and item inventory of the Bailey-Tebault House, with established short and long term goals to maintain the structure and its contents
- Reorganization and expansion of the GSHS website, as well as the addition of GSHS twitter and instagram accounts
- Branding unification of marketing materials to include similar fonts, graphics, and pantone colors
- The return of the GSHS Flea Market Sale to benefit the organization
- GSHS representation in city and county meetings regarding preservation plans for SPLOST projects, economic/ tourism development, and neighborhood stabilization/ revitalization
- Distribution of membership surveys to gather member input regarding the organization's offerings and future

This is only a small sampling of the current projects and progress being undertaken by the organization, as the board strives to align to our mission "to preserve and share the history of Griffin and Spalding County, and to promote the preservation and use of their historic places." The next step of the process is to engage YOU to contribute your talents to this dynamic organization. There are so many ways to serve, from donating items to the upcoming Flea Market sale, to volunteering to organize and identify photos in our archive collection. If you haven't already done so, please complete the previously emailed membership survey and identify ways you would like to volunteer, or contact Executive Director Brittany Stikes at gshs196@gmail.com to let us know of a committee on which you would like to serve. Whether it be offering an hour here and there or a more permanent time commitment as a committee member, we welcome any and all to help propel our organization forward.

Blessed to Serve,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christy J. Todd".

Christy Todd
President, GSHS Board of Directors

Meet The New Executive Director

Brittany Stikes Joins the GSHS Team



In January, the Historical Society welcomed Brittany Stikes as Executive Director. Brittany is a graduate of LaGrange College and received a master's degree in Higher Education Administration from Auburn University. A native of Franklin, Georgia, Brittany is married to Griffin native Bill Stikes, a history teacher at Griffin High School, and in March, they welcomed their son Will.

Before joining GSHS, Brittany served as Assistant Director of Orientation and New Student Programs and Assistant Director of Admissions and Orientation at Clayton State University. Brittany also served as Resident Director, Program Coordinator of Special Events and Interim Director of Campus Activities at Young Harris College. Brittany enjoys antique shopping and crafting, traveling and experiencing different cultures. She and Bill are members of the Griffin First United Methodist Church. "We knew we wanted to put our roots down here and fell in love with our home (especially the front porch!) on 6th Street. It's a work in progress but we enjoy making it our home and a place to grow our family."

Thank You

The Historical Society would like to express sincere appreciation to Karol Sullins for her service as Executive Director. Karol took over as director in the spring of 2013 and spent countless hours overseeing events, weddings, programs, and the Bailey-Tebault House itself. Her knowledge of Griffin and the Historical Society continue to be of invaluable assistance to the society.



Past president Janet Ogletree said "Karol made my term as president extremely easy. Her experience in serving on other boards and as the director of an art school made her transition from board member to Executive Director almost effortless. Organized, committed, and self-motivated are a few words that describe her work ethic. When one adds to that her ability to envision the details for every event, create publications, and take care of our beloved BT House... well, I think the picture is pretty clear."

The Griffin-Spalding Historical Society

Mission Statement

"To preserve and share the history of Griffin and Spalding County and to promote the preservation and use of their historic places."

Board of Directors

Brittany Stikes, *executive director*

Christy Todd, *president*

Angelique Keb, *vp for fundraising and events*

Drew Payne, *vp for preservation and programming*

Janet Ogletree, *past president*

Ryan Owens, *treasurer*

Austin Rooks, *secretary*

Rusty Slider, *house committee chair*

Sandra Slider, *marketing committee chair*

Emily Bethune

Courtney Savage

Linda Dixon

Patrick Shepherd

Caroline Letson

Walker Spivey

Ashley McClemore

Ashley Stout

Karol Sullins

Brittany Stikes & Sandra Slider

newsletter editors

Preservation Update

Christy Todd

Old City Hall

According to Executive Director, Downtown Development Authority, Kenwin Hayes, twenty architectural firms expressed interest in the SPLOST funded preservation project and toured the building. Ten firms submitted general information regarding their past experiences and examples of their work, and the top 5 proposals were chosen for an interview with a four person appointed city hall committee panel. Within the last few weeks, a RFP (request for proposal) was sent to each of the five finalists to bid on the project. Projected plans for the building include meeting/ event space, offices, and a gateway to the proposed amphitheater. Upon receipt of the proposals, the committee will review and choose an architect by late summer.



Rosenwald School and Fairmont Complex

GSHS representatives arranged a meeting with county officials and national Rosenwald expert Jeanne Cyriaque. Jeanne is a former African American Programs Coordinator of the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and is a founding member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Rosenwald Schools initiative. County officials are working with Cyriaque and the Fairmont community to restore and determine an appropriate use for the structure. One interesting fact learned from the meeting is that out of the dollars earmarked for the Fairmont improvement

initiative, only \$60,000 has been allocated for the preservation of the Rosenwald building itself. The GSHS is collaborating with Cyriaque and the county to apply for state and national grants to add to this figure.

In addition, the GSHS is partnering with GLO Atlanta, to utilize public art to raise awareness of Griffin's Rosenwald School. Almost \$5,000 was raised by local patrons to assist with funding their project Unity in 3 Parts- <http://www.gloatl.org/portfolio-items/unity-in-3-parts/>. This project will use public art to document the history of the Rosenwald School, through educational materials, a gallery of past and present photos, an initiative to record oral histories of the community's past, the repurposing of several blighted properties in the Fairmont Community into artist residencies, and a Griffin showing of the Rosenwald documentary. The GSHS collaborated with GLO Atlanta and the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation on a grant that would fund this two year public art initiative, and was recently notified that we are a finalist for a Mellon Foundation Grant through the National Endowment for the Arts. Keep your fingers crossed that this project is selected!



Haisten's Building and Poplar/ Meriwether Corridor

The contract was renewed for another six months to allow the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation to continue to market the Haisten's Building to potential buyers. The property continues to be shown weekly, with serious buyers required to submit proof of funding, plans for the space, and a preservation timeline. The GSHS is continuing to partner with involved entities to find a buyer that will be best suited for the property.

GSHS representatives met with Griffin Housing Authority Director Bob Dull regarding the Poplar Street/ Meriwether Corridor, and ways that our organization can partner with the GHA and other organizations to stabilize historic blighted properties in this area. We continue to work with City of Griffin staff to determine longterm plans for our organization to support the continued improvement and

beautification of this entryway into our city. Our goal is to acquire funding to establish a revolving fund that can stabilize historic blighted structures and market homes to would-be owner occupants.

Interested in assisting with any of the preservation initiatives listed above? Please contact board member Drew Payne at dpaynejr@aol.com.



Going... Going... Gone?

The 1929 Frazier and Bodin designed R.F. Strickland Memorial Hospital, located on 8th Street and West College is in immediate peril. The current owner is threatening demolition if a buyer is not found soon. Tax credits are available for the preservation of this building, and the owner is willing to entertain offers and ideas for the property. For more information, email board member Drew Payne at dpaynejr@aol.com.

From The Georgia Trust Heritage Tourism on the Rise

According to the Georgia Trust, tourists are flocking to Georgia and its historical sites. "Heritage tourism is one of the most rapidly growing segments of the burgeoning tourism industry," reports John Nau, who served as Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation under President George W. Bush and also serves as Chairman of the Texas Historical Commission.

Georgia Trust reports that of the nearly 50 million individuals expected to travel across the U.S. during the next year, 81% of the adults are considered to be historic or cultural travelers. These travelers tend to spend more money per day than the average tourist. Economic development goes hand in hand with tourism, and one of the key ways to draw travelers to a community is to preserve and protect historic structures, and make your town history come alive. With a newly created tourism committee, Griffin is poised to take advantage of this trend.

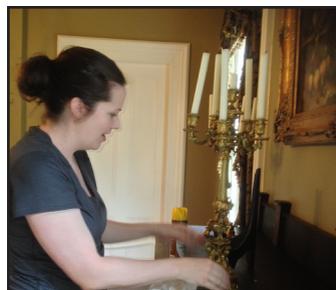
Upcoming Events

August 27
Hancock County Expedition
Oct. 7 - 9
Fall Ramble to Savannah Georgia

A Clean Sweep

With vacuums and dust cloths in tow, members of the Griffin-Spalding Historical Society and the House Committee arrived at the Bailey-Tebault House bright and early on Saturday, May 21. Teams divided the downstairs rooms and began the process of deep cleaning this beautiful house. After just four hours, most of the downstairs chandeliers were shining, furniture glowed, and baseboards, windows and floors were clean. In addition, volunteers were able to paint the outside porches and the back staircase. A thorough inventory is underway to document all of the house furnishings as well as supplies.

“With just a few hours of work from a number of people we were able to accomplish a great deal,” said House Committee Chair Rusty Slider. A second work-day is scheduled for fall. From dusting furniture or cleaning silver to outdoor work, there are jobs available for every skill and energy level.



Caroline Letson cleans the crystal chandelier in the Shepard Parlor. (top) Christy, Carter and Drew Todd tackle the removal of vines on the Dunaway porch. (left) Ashley McLemore returns the candelabras to the sideboard in the Blakely Dining Room once the furniture has been polished and the bric-a-brac has been cleaned. (above left) The linen storage closet was organized and cataloged. (above right)

Fresh Look For Staples Garden

While volunteers gave the inside of the BT House an update, Bob Rittle and Doreen Staples-Marshall brightened the outdoors with fresh flowers and a new coat of paint on the planters in the Staples Memorial Garden.

Jim Staples, former owner of Hensley Office Equipment on Solomon Street, was an active member of the Griffin Rotary and the Chamber of Commerce. He was killed in a scuba accident in 1996. Doreen, who was attending a wedding at the Bailey-Tebault House when she learned of her husband's death, chose to honor him with a stone marker at the back of the Smalley Garden. Ms. Staples-Marshall, who now lives in Atlanta, continues her ties to the Griffin community.



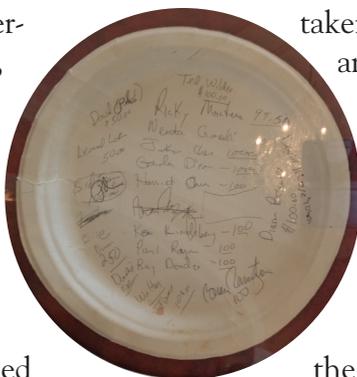
Spring Events Educate and Entertain

The Historical Society, under the leadership of vice president Angelique Keb, sponsored a variety of events during the spring. For families, Bunny in the Garden was a great kick off to the Easter Holiday. Children had the opportunity to meet and pet live bunnies as well as have their picture taken with the Easter Bunny.

On May 5th, members and guests donned their loveliest hats and bow ties and headed to the BT House for the annual Run for the Roses.

On Sunday, June 12th, members had the opportunity to learn more about Griffin's past, present and future with a panel discussion including Gordon Dixon - a former GSHS president; Jeanne Cyriaque, an expert on the Rosenwald Schools; Kyle Campbell of Preservation South; Dick Morrow, current Griffin mayor; and Christy Todd, GSHS president. Moderated by vice president Drew Payne, the panel provided information on plans for the city, particularly in terms of historic preservation.

Gordon Dixon offered insight into the process



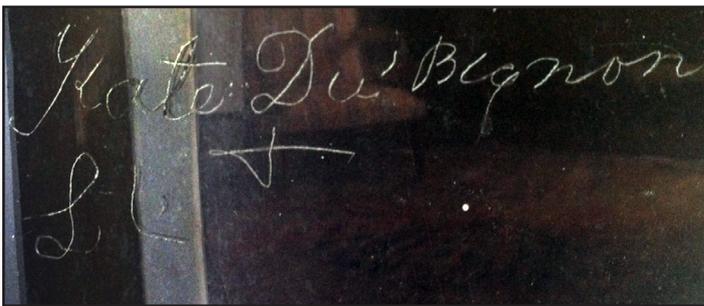
taken to purchase the Bailey-Tebault House and the many sacrifices made by then members to make that purchase possible. Kyle Campbell pointed out the benefits of historic preservation with tax credits for funds spend to restore historic properties and the increase in property values with the development of historic districts.

Mayor Morrow reiterated the plans for the Old Courthouse which include potential restaurant space as well as restroom facilities which can be use for the building as well as for the adjacent park. The Downtown Development Authority is currently reviewing the proposals and they hope for work to begin on the project in late summer or early fall. According to Mayor Morrow, a newly established tourism committee has been created to help bring businesses and individuals into the city.

Christy Todd reported that the Georgia Trust has received a grant to train GSHS board members on establishing and operating a revolving fund. The group will be focusing on the Poplar corridor in the first stage of preservation efforts.



Etched in Glass



Hidden behind shutters in the Cheatham Parlor at the Bailey-Tebault House is a memento of days long past. Etched into a window pane is the name Kate DuBignon and the beginnings of a second name suggesting the young lady was, perhaps, interrupted in the process of recording her romantic inclinations.

Born in January of 1846, Kate Amelie DuBignon, later Sorrel, was the daughter of Ann Virginia Grantland and Charles DuBignon. Kate's mother was the sister of Susan Grantland Bailey, who, along with her husband David Bailey, built the Bailey-Tebault House.

Kate was born in Milledgeville where her father was a prosperous and respected planter. Prior to moving to central Georgia, Charles DuBignon inherited Jekyll Island from his father. He later divided the island between his three surviving sons and an unmarried daughter, all from his first marriage, before moving to Milledgeville and making the Grantland estate, Woodville, his home.

In November of 1867, Kate married Gilbert Moxley Sorrel, who had been a Confederate Brigadier General in the Civil War. He participated in the capture of Fort Pulaski and served on the staff of Lieutenant General James Longstreet, participating with him in every major

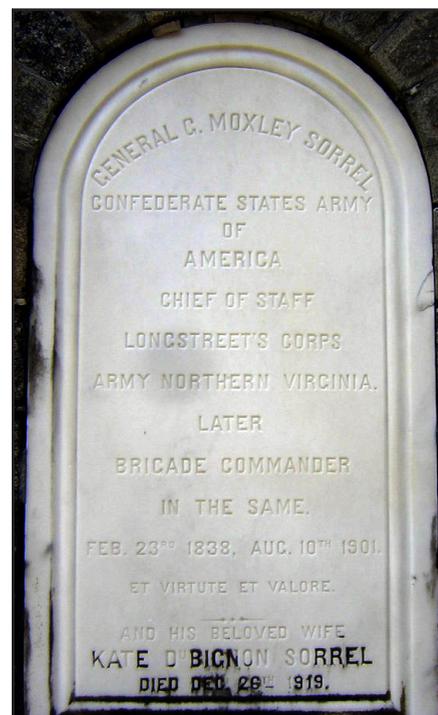


campaign in the East as well as the Chickamauga and Knoxville campaigns. Sorrel was seriously wounded in February of 1865 and was returning to his command when the Confederate army was surrendered at Appomattox. After the war, he returned to Savannah where he was a merchant. He wrote *Recollections of a Confederate Staff Officer*, which is considered to be one of the most valuable memoirs of a Civil War aide.

Kate's in-laws lived in Savannah, in a prominent home now known as the Sorrel-Weed House. The home saw much tragedy. Francis Sorrel's first wife, Lucinda Moxley, died at just 22 years of age. Two years later Sorrel married Lucinda's younger sister Matilda. Francis and Matilda Sorrel had four children and the Sorrels were among the most prominent and wealthy in Savannah. The family eventually moved to the house next door at 12 West Harris Street and it was in that home in 1860 that Matilda is believed to have discovered her husband's infidelity with a young slave girl and subsequently leaped to her death from the second or third story balcony of their home. A few weeks later, legend has it, the slave Molly was found hanging from a noose in what was believed to be a second suicide.

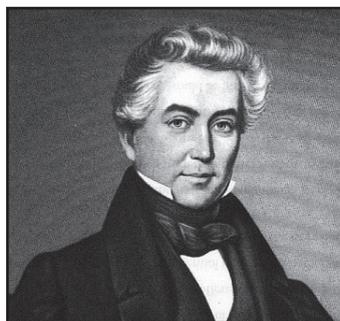
Kate and Gilbert had no children. Gilbert preceded her in death in 1901 and Kate died in 1919 and is buried in the Laurel Grove Cemetery in Savannah.

The fictional book *The Bracelet*, by Dorothy Love, is said to be based on Matilda Sorrel. Gilbert Sorrel is mentioned in the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *The Killer Angels*, and is played by Kieran Mulroney in the film *Gettysberg*.



The Grantland-Bailey Connection

Seaton Grantland, who was Susan Grantland Bailey's father and Kate DuBignon's grandfather (see page 8), was one of the most influential Georgians of his day. Born in Virginia in 1782, he married Nancy Tinsley, and together they moved to Milledgeville, Georgia, then capital of the state. Seaton and his brother Fleming, began publishing the *Georgia Journal*, and he remained connected to the publishing industry for most of his life. It is said that Seaton Grantland was an eloquent and passionate writer.

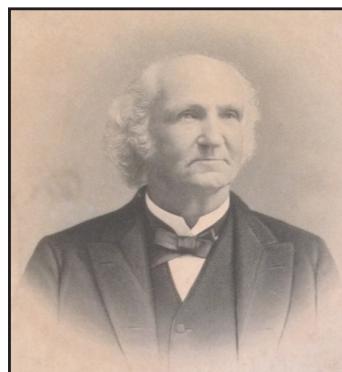


Briefly stepping away from the publishing world after the death of his young wife, Nancy, he became president of the Milledgeville branch of the State Bank. In 1835 he was elected to the House of Representatives, serving for two terms, and in 1848 he served as an elector for the President.

Grantland's daughter, Susan, married David Jackson Bailey who was born in 1812 in Lexington, Georgia and who would also become influential in the state. Bailey, along with Robert Toombs, was admitted to the Georgia bar at just 19 years of age, two years shy of the legal requirement. Bailey was then elected to the state congress at the age of 20, but was denied his seat because he was under the legal age of 21. A States Rights Democrat, he went on to serve several terms in the state Congress and Senate, and was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives for four years. He re-

turned to the state senate, serving as president of that body until 1856. He voted to secede from the union despite his father-in-law's opinion that such a move could be financially perilous for the state.

Susan and David Bailey began construction of their new home in Griffin in 1859, less than 20 years after the town was incorporated. The house rested



on a relatively small plot because the family maintained a working farm in nearby Butts County.

David and Susan Bailey had four children: Annie Bailey Voorhies, Seaton Grantland Bailey (who at the request of his grandfather and with the blessing of his parents, dropped

Bailey in order to inherit his grandfather's estate), Fleming Grantland Bailey, and David Jackson Bailey.

Seaton Grantland II married Leila Gilliam. They had a son, also named Seaton Grantland, who died at the age of five. Their daughter, Leila Gilliam Grantland married Henry Wilbur Barnes and they had two children: Leila Barnes Cheatham and Seaton Grantland Barnes, both of whom lived in Griffin until their deaths in 2011 and 2008 respectively.

Both Grantland Barnes and Leila Barnes Cheatham were driving forces behind the creation of the Griffin-Spalding Historical Society, and the Cheatham and Barnes families continue to be an important part of the Griffin community.



Coffee Club

Perhaps one of the longest-running groups within the Historical Society, the Coffee Club meets every Tuesday morning, come rain or shine. With just twelve spaces around the table, the group limits its members to that number. Members take turns bringing breakfast foods and Executive Director Brittany Stikes provides the coffee. For one hour each Tuesday morning, these men discuss the important topics of the day, their families, or their favorite sports teams and demonstrate one of the things that makes Griffin so special - good friends and neighbors.

Griffin-Spalding Historical Society

TRASH & Treasures

Friday & Saturday,
September 23 and 24

Flea Market

We need your help to make this fundraiser a HUGE success.

Please donate your gently used items to the Griffin-Spalding Historical Society.

Suggested Items

Furniture	Home Decor
Small Appliances	Books
Linens	China
Lamps	Silver
Curtains & Drapes	Mirrors

*Please - no clothing or non-working
electrical appliances*

- Pick up for larger items available by appointment
- Drop-off items at the Bailey-Tebault House on Tuesday mornings, between 8:00 - 9:30 a.m., July 12 - September 6; Saturday, September 3 and 17 between 9:00 a.m. and noon, Sunday, September 11, 2-3 p.m., or by appointment.

To schedule a drop-off or pick-up time, contact
gshs196@gmail.com or adk4287@gmail.com

Donations

General Fund

The Garden Club of Griffin
Junior Guild

The Mary Smalley Garden Memorial Gifts

By Patricia Kinnett in memory of
Micki Wallace, Ruth Gary, and Barry Bilbro

Thank you to these donors for their generous contributions to the Griffin-Spalding Historical Society. All gifts to the Historical Society are tax deductible.

Have Your Special Event at the Bailey-Tebault House

Reserve Now
Fall & Winter Dates are
filling up fast

Contact Brittany Stikes at
gshs196@gmail.com or 770-229-2432

Junior Guild

Campbell Daniels Receives Historical Society Scholarship

In order to be eligible for the Historical Society Scholarship, high school seniors in Junior Guild submitted an essay about their involvement in Junior Guild. Campbell Daniels, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Derrell Daniels, was selected as the 2016 recipient.

In her essay, she says “I have always had opportunities to serve my community. From working on mission trips to helping with Vacation Bible School, helping others has always been a fun passion of mine. When I joined Junior Guild I knew part of my responsibility would be serving others. ... Little did I know that serving others through Junior Guild would be a blessing to me as much as it is for others.”

Campbell found that the Griffin Area Resource Center was particularly rewarding. Junior Guild sponsored parties for disabled adults. “They are so fun to be around and so thankful that we go overboard to make them feel special.”

Campbell also enjoyed helping teachers with pre-planning. “By completing the simple task of creating birthday bags, decorating their bulletin board with all of the students’ names, or organizing their shelves so students can easily access all of the materials needed, the teachers are able to focus on the bigger task at hand.”

Campbell loves her hometown. “Many people complain about how Griffin has not grown or expanded, but they are usually the same ones who do not do anything to serve or help it grow themselves. By serving my community I feel as though I am leaving it a better place for the next generation to enjoy.”

A 2016 graduate of Spalding High School, Campbell was a member of the Griffin Ballet Theater Senior Company and will attend the University of Georgia next fall.



2016-2017 Junior Guild Officers

President - Georgia Inglis

Vice President - Grayson Waits

Secretary - Anna Jones



Young Members Complete Impressive Year



From the fall Food Friends and Football get together, to saying farewell at the end of the year meeting, Junior Guild girls had an outstanding year. While each member was expected to perform 12 hours of community service, the 218 members of the group logged many more hours of service by planning parties for the Griffin Area Resource Center, helping out at events at the Bailey-Tebault House, and by volunteering throughout the community. As the Guild says goodbye to this year’s 12 seniors, it looks forward to welcoming new members at the August Mother/Daughter Tea. For more information, contact Brittany Stikes at gshs196@gmail.com.

Congratulations to Graduating Seniors

Elaine Brooks Ballard, Faith Elizabeth Brooks, Campbell Margaret Daniels, Emily Noel Huckaby, Madison Anne King, Caroline Erin Long, Mary Frances Mabbett, Alexandria Martinez, Emma Grace Parry, Amelia Blake Smith, Taylor Nicole Thompson, Matlin Susannah Westbury

Upcoming Events

September 11, 12:30 p.m.
Historical Luncheon
The Savannah-Griffin Connection

September 23 - 24
Trash & Treasures Flea Market

October 2
Patron Party

October 7-9
Savannah Ramble

November 5
Tailgate Party

December 10
Member Christmas Party

Savannah Ramble

Interested in learning more about Griffin-Savannah connections? Join the Griffin-Spalding Historical Society on the Georgia Trust Fall Ramble.

When: Friday - Sunday, October 7 - 9

Cost: **Friday - Sunday, Meals & Receptions**
 \$260 Georgia Trust Members
 \$290 Non-Members

Friday - Sunday, Tours Only
 \$140

Transportation: Car Pool from BT House

GSHS Reception on Friday Evening

Contact gshs196@gmail.com to indicate your interest. We will get block hotel rooms once we know interest. You may make your own reservations for the tour at www.georgiitrust.org/historic_sites/rambles.

Griffin Spalding Historical Society
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