

The Rambler

Newsletter of the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation

Volume 1, Number 1

December, 1974

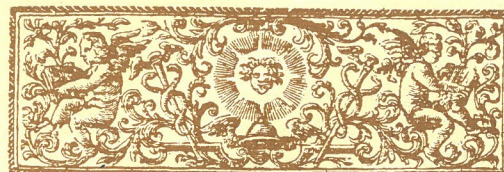
In selecting *The Rambler* as the name for its newsletter, the Georgia Trust evokes both the awesome presence of Samuel Johnson and the high example of his periodic essay *The Rambler*.

Members of the Trust, standing in the November sunshine before a log cabin in Oglethorpe County, had a much easier time in naming their periodical than Johnson had in naming his. According to James Boswell, Johnson told Sir Joshua Reynolds: "When I was to begin publishing that paper, I was at a loss how to name it. I sat down at night upon my bedside, and resolved that I would not go to sleep till I had fixed its title. *The Rambler* seemed the best that occurred, and I took it."

Having found the name, Johnson issued essays every Tuesday and Friday from March 20, 1750 to March 17, 1752. In each of the 208 essays he wrote as a moralist, commenting on society, literature, and the nature of man. At its peak, the circulation of Johnson's *Rambler* was only about 500 copies, but its appeal was lasting and varied. The series went through ten editions during Johnson's lifetime; young Boswell left Scotland to meet the author of *The Rambler*; and even Mrs. Johnson, a woman not known for extending praise, said of the papers: "I thought very well of you before; but I did not imagine you could have written any thing equal to this."

What have all these literary details to do with Georgia and the Georgia Trust? Although Johnson snorted at America, he counted General James Oglethorpe, with whom he frequently dined, among his close friends. In the *Life of Johnson*, Boswell speaks of Oglethorpe as an "extraordinary person . . . remarkable for learning and taste," a man of "uncommon vivacity." Because of the bond between Johnson and Oglethorpe, there may be a more than verbal link between that eighteenth-century *Rambler* and this one. In his *Rambler*, Johnson sought to restore common sense and preserve sound principles of moral conduct. By its *Rambler*, the Georgia Trust would restore architectural monuments and preserve evidence of the past. Both papers offer information and analysis, and the Georgia Trust can find a kind of directive for its activities in a line from Johnson's *Rambler* for Tuesday, April 3, 1750: "There is, indeed, something inexpressibly pleasing in the annual renovating of the world, and the new display of the treasures of nature."

Jo Allen Bradham
Associate Professor of English
Agnes Scott College



T H E

R A M B L E R.

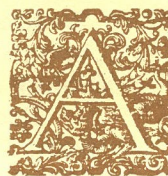
NUMB. 60.

Price 2 d.

To be continued on TUESDAYS and SATURDAYS.

S A T U R D A Y, October 13, 1750

—*Quid sit pulchrum, quid turpe, quid utile, quid non,*
Plenius et melius Chryippo et Crantore dict. HOR.



ALL Joy or Sorrow for the Happiness or Calamities of others is produced by an Act of the Imagination, that realises the Event however fictitious, or approximates it however remote, by placing us, for a Time, in the Condition of him whose Fortune we contemplate; so that we feel, while the Deception lasts, whatever Motions would be excited by the same Good or Evil happening to ourselves.

Our Passions are therefore more strongly moved, in proportion as we can more readily adopt the Pains or Pleasures proposed to our Minds, by recognising them as once our own, or considering them as naturally incident to our

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

One of the greatest needs statewide in historic preservation, and a primary goal of the Georgia Trust, is the regular distribution of a newsletter, a medium of communication and exchange of information among those organizations and individuals in the state whose purpose is to foster and preserve our heritage. This newsletter is a start toward that goal.

It takes an unbelievable amount of time to launch a new program or a new foundation made up until lately entirely of volunteers. Though the response has
(continued on back page)

COMMITTEES

A number of committees have been appointed by the president to work in specific areas of concern to the Trust. These committees and their members are listed below, followed by a brief description of their progress and plans thus far.

Executive Committee

Bill Griffin, Chairman of the
Board of Trustees, Atlanta
Mary Jewett, President, Decatur
Marguerite Williams,
Vice-President, Thomasville
Barry Wright, Secretary, Rome
Paul Hawkins, Treasurer, Atlanta
David Sherman, Albany
Phinizy Spalding, Athens
Jane Symmes, Madison

Beautification and Conservation Committee

Ann Singer, Chairman, Lumpkin
Jennie Anderson, Marietta
Mary Jane Crayton, LaGrange
Virginia Hay, Sea Island
Hubert Owens, Athens

Nominating Committee

Marguerite Williams, Chairman,
Thomasville
Bill Bush, Augusta
Ann Singer, Lumpkin
Phinizy Spalding, Athens
Jane Symmes, Madison

1975 Savannah Conference Committee

Mary Morrison, General Chairman
Mills Lane IV, Program Chairman
DeCourcy McIntosh, Historic
Savannah Foundation
Beth Lattimore, Historic Savannah
Foundation
The Trust's members in Savannah

Special Projects Committee

Frank McCall, Chairman,
Moultrie
Bib Anderson, Macon
Turner Bryson, Washington
Maria Jones, Albany
Clason Kyle, Columbus
David Sherman, Albany

Publicity Committee

Scoop Scruggs, Chairman,
Norcross
Clason Kyle, Columbus
Graham and Adelaide Ponder,
Madison
Helena Zimmerman, Savannah

Plans and Policies Committee

Bill Bush, Chairman, Augusta
Turner Bryson, Washington
Henry Green, St. Simons Island
Mary Morrison, Savannah
Phinizy Spalding, Athens

Legal Study Committee

Lewis Larson, Chairman,
Carrollton
Bates Block, Atlanta
Clifford Clarke, Atlanta
Mike Herndon, Columbus
Barry Wright, Rome

Technical Assistance Committee

Ed Neal, Chairman, Columbus
Edward DeZurko, Athens
Henry Green, St. Simons Island
Florence Griffin, Atlanta
Phinizy Spalding, Athens
Jane Symmes, Madison

Membership Committee

Gail Talmadge, Chairman,
Jonesboro

The Legal Study Committee members are engaged in a review of pertinent legislation in order to define positions to recommend to the members. Through this newsletter the Trust's members will be kept informed of the status of pending legislation and will be urged to contact their legislators on issues relating to historic preservation.

The Special Projects Committee is working on plans for a guide to historic places in Georgia. Chairman Frank McCall is consulting with local historical societies for information and ideas. Under consideration is a proposal to publish the book as the Trust's bicentennial project.

The Technical Assistance Committee is planning a booklet that will list professionals and artisans qualified for the work of restoring and preserving property. The committee will determine, from recommendations received, whether the skill of the artisan qualifies him or her to be placed on the Trust's list. It will also stress the need for historical, archaeological, and architectural research before restoration is begun on any property.

The Membership Committee is designing a brochure to accompany the Trust's new membership drive in January, 1975. This drive is to be based principally on asking each present member to enlist at least one new member. For present members, dues for 1975 will be payable in January also. Volunteer help on the Membership Committee will be an especially valuable contribution to the strength of the Trust.

The Publicity Committee began its work with a press release on the Fall Ramble and plans its next major efforts to concentrate on the Trust's membership drive in January. It is also open to suggestions for feature stories.

The Nominating Committee at the October 12, 1974 Board meeting recommended two new appointments, both of which were unanimously approved: Mr. Wendell Garrett, editor of *Antiques* magazine, was appointed to the Trust's Advisory Board and Mrs. Janet Pecha was made Assistant Secretary of the Trust.

The Georgia Trust's Committee on Plans and Policies has responsibility for developing guidelines for the activities of the Trust. The following four policy statements were approved at the 1974 annual meeting and are beginning principles for the Trust's operation:

1. The primary thrust of the corporation during its formative years shall be the dissemination of knowledge of the history, prehistory, heritage and culture of Georgia, particularly as such knowledge relates to the preservation of buildings, monuments, sites, artifacts, customs, ways, lores and activities of past Georgians which are distinctive or endangered. The corporation in assuming this educational role shall sponsor an annual conference on historic preservation, shall publish a quarterly newsletter to be sent to all members and shall conduct quarterly instructional forays into various sections of the State, open to all members, to familiarize participants with their cultural heritage.

2. The corporation shall not engage in any activities for the purpose of influencing legislation of any kind, whether on a local, state or national level. This prohibition shall not be construed, however, to prevent the corporation from disseminating to members and the public in general any facts relative to proposed, pending or enacted legislation as educational material. No actions whatever may be taken which will in any way endanger or jeopardize the exemption from federal income tax under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

3. The corporation shall not accept as a gift, devise, bequest or loan any property, real or personal, which does not possess qualities or features for interpretation of its significance in the State's history, archaeology, architecture or culture, or which shall require the expenditure of money to pay for restoration, maintenance, furnishing or operation unless, by endowment or otherwise, there will be assured funds from sources other than the corporation's general treasury adequate for such purposes, all as shall be determined by the Board of Trustees.

4. Any public memorial that is erected, maintained or operated by the corporation shall be one that is intended to commemorate, or to perpetuate the memory of, some person, group of persons, event or circumstance which has made some significant contribution to, or effected a change in, the history of the State, in the political, military or cultural areas, and is of such importance as to be referred to in a literary work of general circulation or one that is to be found in the average public library, all as shall be determined by the Board of Trustees. Each memorial shall have such design, dimensions and be in such location as shall be approved by the Board of Trustees, or a committee appointed by the Board of Trustees, not necessarily from its membership, composed of qualified experts who are members of the appropriate disciplines, which committee shall consider the aesthetic and environmental features and the public interest of each proposed memorial.

Jackson O'Neal Lamb has succeeded Mrs. Mary Gregory Jewett as State Historic Preservation Officer by appointment of Governor Jimmy Carter. He is also Chief of the Historic Preservation Section under the State Department of Natural Resources, a position also held by Mrs. Jewett. Mr. Lamb brings to this office five and a half years of experience in historic preservation. He is strong in administration and in working with federal grants and programs. Educated at Mercer University, Mr. Lamb has been involved in restoration projects in Macon and Moultrie. The most significant is Whitehall Plantation, south of Macon, which he formerly owned. Mr. Lamb is working closely with the Georgia Trust.

Wendell Garrett, editor of *Antiques* magazine, author of a book on Thomas Jefferson, editor of one of the series on the Adams family, secretary of the Walpole Society, and a friend of many historical preservationists in Georgia, has accepted an invitation to join the Board of Advisors for the Georgia Trust. His knowledge and experience will be a welcome addition to this distinguished board.

Dr. Hubert B. Owens, a member of the Georgia Trust's Board of Trustees, was installed as President of the International Federation of Landscape Architects at their biennial Congress in Vienna, Austria, on June 19. Dr. Owens, Dean Emeritus of the School of Environmental Design at the University of Georgia, has been active in the International Federation for the past 20 years, serving in a number of offices. He is also a Past President of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Immediately after her retirement from the state, Mrs. Mary Jewett, the Trust's President, spent several weeks abroad, primarily interested in historic buildings and gardens. She is now assisting the state as advisor on several projects.

F. Clason Kyle of Columbus, member of the Board of Trustees, has been elected Vice-President of the Victorian Society in America. Dr. William J. Murtagh, of the Trust's Advisory Board, is President of the Society.

Trustee William R. Mitchell Jr. began his new duties as Executive Director of Historic Augusta, Inc., on May 1.

DeCourcy E. McIntosh became the new Executive Vice-President and Director of Historic Savannah Foundation, Inc., in June.

The Trust is very grateful to Frank McCall of Moultrie, a member of the Board of Trustees, for his generous donation of a carpet for our front office.

We also thank Thomas Collum of Atlanta for his efforts in acquiring furniture for us.

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Before a distinguished group of local dignitaries and members of the Board of Natural Resources and Heritage Trust Advisory Commission, Hofwyl-Broadfield plantation on U.S. 17 at the Altamaha River in Glynn County was formally presented to the State of Georgia for its preservation on Wednesday, November 20th.

Hofwyl, one of the most important rice and cattle plantations in Georgia, was last owned by Miss Ophelia Dent, a member of the family, who willed its 1200 acres, buildings and their contents to the state with a trust fund to assist in its maintenance. It is to be preserved for its historical and natural features with a request that rice should be raised on it again as there is now no rice grown in the state.

The plantation will not be open to the public immediately.

On Wednesday, December 4th, the State of Georgia under its Heritage Trust program accepted for state ownership the Rock House near Thomson in McDuffie County. This unique rock structure, the last remaining building from the time that the area was a Quaker settlement, is one of the few rock buildings in the state and the earliest one remaining. The Wrightsboro Quaker Preservation Foundation, with the leadership of Mrs. Pearl Baker, has protected this building for a number of years, encouraging the state to accept its custody.

Through the efforts of the Historic Columbus Foundation and the Georgia Historical Commission, funds on a state level were made available to match federal funds to launch the National Register program in Georgia. The impetus was the urgent need to form an historic district in the endangered downtown area in Columbus. Since then the restoration and adaptation of structures to modern usages in the district shows continuing success. The district adjoins a strip along the Chattahoochee River which contains the earliest history of the city. An imaginative proposal to redevelop this birthplace of the city is the primary bicentennial effort of Columbus, with the formation of the Columbus Promenade along the river from the fall of the Chattahoochee to the Oglethorpe Bridge. This will tie the historic district to the river. As an impetus the Council of the County-City government has voted a \$40,000 challenge to the citizens and friends of Columbus to match this amount for the initial development of the area.

The Rome Area Heritage Foundation has acquired the historic 19th century home of Dr. Robert Battey, a Civil War surgeon and famous pioneer of surgical procedures in the post-war era. The house was donated by a realty firm which bought the property on which the home was standing to develop commercially. The structure has been moved to a new site where it will be renovated in Victorian style and will include a small medical museum to honor Dr. Battey.

The Old Clinton Historical Society is trying to buy a small but important tract of land on which stand the oldest house in Clinton, built circa 1809, the stone foundations of the old jail, and a part of the site of the Clinton Female Seminary, the genesis of Wesleyan College. The Society plans to restore the house for a museum and information center. The fund-raising campaign needs the help of all the friends of Old Clinton. If you have a donation, or want more information, contact the Old Clinton Historical Society, Inc., at P.O. Box 341, Gray, Georgia 31032.

Thomasville's Central High School has begun a new course called *Our Local Heritage*, being implemented during the 1974-1975 school year. Students were allowed to select this course as part of their social studies requirement and have been involved in planning the course. This is the first time that local history has been part of the school program. The inclusion of this course in the curriculum was an outgrowth of ideas and discussions of the project for the bicentennial celebration of the United States and of Thomas County's sesquicentennial celebration, both occurring in 1976. In addition to study of facts and research concerning local history, the course is being designed so that students will experience activities such as felling trees, splitting rails, hog killing, hitching mules to wagons and making soap.

The potential of the course, and its validity, has been recognized by the awarding of a grant by the Georgia Bicentennial Commission and, most recently, by *History News*, Journal of the American Association for State and Local History, whose editor plans to do a feature on the class in its Spring issue.

The Folly, recently declared a national Landmark under the theme, "Architecture of the 19th Century," was dedicated on November 8 at the Folly in Columbus. Dr. William J. Murtagh, Keeper of the National Register, presented the certificate in an address to Clason Kyle, owner of this attractive and colorful small house. Though there is always danger in calling anything "the oldest" or "the only," to the best of the knowledge of those in historic preservation this is the only known double octagon. Dr. Murtagh discovered this unique feature some time ago when he was examining the building after a fire. It has been restored to emphasize the details of its early design. An interesting feature of the dedication was the blessing of the house by the Rev. Norman Seifferman; another was the christening of the house by bottles of Coca Cola and R. C. Cola, well-known Columbus products.

Other buildings in Georgia made national landmarks under this theme include the State Capitol in Atlanta, the Executive Mansion in Milledgeville, the Lapham-Patterson House in Thomasville, the Scarbrough House in Savannah, Bellevue in LaGrange, the Tupper-Barnett House in Washington, and the Hay House in Macon.



Mr. Charlie Faust's plantation-plain style house

RAMBLING

The Georgia Trust's ramblings got off to a great start on November 9th with the Fall Ramble in Oglethorpe County. Close to 150 members and guests turned out for the jaunt, and had a full and fun day of it.

The trip began in the country with the Langston-Daniel-Dillard House, a fine brick house, built circa 1816, west of Crawford, where the members rambled from cellar to attic and everywhere in between. The next stop, the Edwards-Byrd-Haston House, built in the late 1850's, featured intriguing slender columns and Italianate elements of design. At Mr. Charlie Faust's warm and inviting home, visitors were able to see his plantation plain style house, the adjacent log cabin built in 1812, and several outbuildings, including a log gin and a corn crib. An extra treat taken advantage of by many members was a trek to Echols Mill, a fine old three-story mill whose massive framework still stands.

Hospitality was again warm at the beautiful home of Mr. and Mrs. R. Hoke Smith, the Platt-Brooks House in Lexington. This town house, built circa 1828, offered a close look at a variation of plantation plain style architecture as well as lovely furniture and grounds. Also in Lexington, and seen by many members, were the charming home of Mrs. Hugh M. Callaway Sr., built before 1827, and the Lumpkin-Maxwell House, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Kools, with an original old wing built before 1797 and a newer wing of the 1840's.

The ramble, planned and led by Patricia Cooper, added much to our knowledge and appreciation of Georgia's architectural heritage. To all the gracious owners who allowed the ramble to visit, the Trust is sincerely thankful.

Since all contributions are tax-deductible, some of you may want to pay your 1975 dues, or make a gift to the Trust, before the end of this year.

CHRISTMAS

From December 9th through December 31st, the Tullie Smith House Restoration in Atlanta will be decorated with fresh native greenery. A special exhibit of 1840's costumes will be featured, the first step in preparation for a Bicentennial project to provide all docents with authentic costumes.

Festive Yule Log Ceremonies were held at both the Tullie Smith House Restoration and at Westville, outside Lumpkin, on the afternoon of December 7th. The hunt and burning of the Yule Log highlighted both of these celebrations, which also featured decorations, carols and traditional refreshments.

Bulloch Hall, closed to the public since the end of October, opened once again to celebrate "Christmas in 1850" with its third annual Christmas Candlelight Tours, in the evenings from December 7th to December 15th. The Candlelight Tours, this year completely planned and carried out through volunteer efforts, featured the specially decorated fir tree in the library, the Wassail Bowl, the period decorations of wreaths, garlands and native greenery, a special exhibit of antique toys, and refreshments around the open hearth of the downstairs kitchen.

The annual Christmas Benefit Party, sponsored by the Trustees of the Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation, was held December 14th at the Old Franklin House Hotel, the ACHF's candidate for restoration as the Georgia Bicentennial Meeting House. The 1840's structure, saved from threatened demolition by the Foundation in the Spring, was decked out for the Christmas season in masses of green and with sawdust on the floor.

The party, always a gala event in the Athens Christmas season, was accompanied by an auction of goods and services from Foundation members to the highest bidders in the community. Proceeds from the party go toward the revolving fund.

For Christmas, have you thought of giving a 1975 membership in the Trust? Contact the office and we will send a decorated card to announce your gift.

DATES TO NOTE FOR 1975

- January 25.** Restoring Southern Antiques at Westville
For details on Westville activities, write: Westville, Box 1850, Lumpkin, Georgia 31815
- February 12-16.** Georgia Week in Savannah
Contact: LeGrand Palmer, Historic Savannah Foundation, Inc., 119 Habersham Street, Savannah, Georgia 31402 (912) 233-7787
- February 17.** Afternoon of Chamber Music at Westville
- March 15.** Historic Vegetable Gardening at Westville
- April 5.** Wild Foods and Medicines at Westville
- April 5-6.** Old Clinton Spring Tour of Homes
Contact: Old Clinton Historical Society, P.O. Box 341, Gray, Georgia 31032
- April 11-12.** Meeting of the Georgia Historical Society
- April 12-13.** Cuthbert Tour of Homes
- April 19.** The Georgia Trust's Spring Ramble to Birdsville in Millen
- April 19-20.** Salisbury Fair and Tour of Homes in Columbus

April 25-27.

Athens Annual Tour of Homes
Contact: The Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation, Church-Brumby House, 280 East Dougherty, Athens, Georgia 30601 (404) 546-1818 or 546-5085

May 1-3.

Seventh Annual Conference on Historic Preservation in Georgia. Savannah. Co-sponsored by the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, Inc. and Historic Savannah Foundation, Inc.

(continued)

been good, we will still need volunteers. Committees have been appointed among board members. There are talents in the general membership which we should utilize and we await volunteers for membership on these committees.

The plans for the May meeting in Savannah will be announced in the next newsletter. Please mark the first weekend in May on your calendar. Committees are also working already on the meeting for 1976 in Atlanta.

The Ramble was a great success under the capable leadership of Patricia Cooper. There will be a Spring Ramble to Birdsville on April 19. Let us know of special events in your area so we can encourage the membership to join your tours as adjuncts to the rambles which are sponsored by the Trust.

There is an accumulation of news to fill far more than the space we have in this initial report. We are holding some to include later and will try in the future to be more current in our news.

Mary Gregory Jewett
President

GEORGIA TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION, INC.

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