

# AAHS Newsletter

## FALL 2021



### Preserving the Port's Past

*Feeling creative? As the holiday season approaches, consider joining the "Elves" to make wreaths from local greens to support the AAHS. Posts on Facebook soon.*



### GRANTS UPDATE

Competition for "Special Category" state funding for Raney House was fierce, and the AAHS ranked at #39, even though we scored better than in 2019, when we ranked #9. Eighty applications were reviewed. Funding for "Special Category" grants would have to exceed \$12 million for AAHS to be funded. As Plan B, we are seeking grant funds from the TDC's new "Museum Projects". This will be combined with \$25k from CRA, and will hopefully cover the cost of replacing the columns and stabilizing under the dining room floor. **Stay tuned.**

### Mysterious Portrait of Dr. John Gorrie

When former steamboat captain George Henry Whiteside founded the Apalachicola Ice and Canning Company in 1885, he knew that the world had forgotten Dr. John Gorrie's invention of the ice making machine in 1851. Captain Whiteside published a biography of Dr. Gorrie in 1897 that explained how the doctor created a machine to cool patients with fever. At that time, Dr. Gorrie's daughter Sarah told him, "There exists no picture of him, nor is any known to have been taken."

However, the John Gorrie State Park in Apalachicola displays a small portrait of Dr. Gorrie in an antique frame made before the Civil War. The small photographed portrait is newer than the frame, and is printed on Kodak paper made after 1899. The origins of the portrait and the old picture frame are unknown. We know that Dr. Alvan Chapman knew Dr. Gorrie personally and provided a description to Captain Whiteside, who organized a commission to place a monument in Gorrie Square in 1899. Either Captain Whiteside or the Florida legislature that commissioned Dr. Gorrie's statue in Washington, D.C. must have had an artist paint a likeness of Dr. Gorrie based on descriptions from Dr. Chapman and Sarah Gorrie.

In 1914, copies of a portrait depicting Dr. Gorrie were distributed at an exposition of ice and refrigeration. Sculptor Adrian Pillars of Jacksonville then used that likeness as a reference for the statue that was unveiled in 1914. The only certain fact is that around 1900, someone owned a portrait of Dr. John Gorrie that was photographed and placed in an antique frame. That portrait was used to create a copy that is in the Smithsonian Institution, the identical statue in Washington, and the 1935 portrait that is displayed in John Gorrie state park in Apalachicola.



**This research by James Hargrove will be part of a new series of historical broadcasts on Oyster Radio—STAY TUNED**

## Henry Martin to Chair Cemetery Committee

Henry was born in Atlanta, attended Georgia Southern College and earned a degree in music education. He and Judy have been married 42 years. They have a son and a beautiful 4 month old granddaughter. Before retiring, he worked for Genuine Parts Company. They started coming to St George Island around 1985 for vacation every year and fell in love with the area. They bought their home on 14th Street 6 years ago.

Henry was involved with Oakland Cemetery in Atlanta, with an interest in the architecture and history of graveyards. Henry says "I became involved with the committee because Chestnut Cemetery is a special place and deserves to be cared for and preserved for the future."

Many thanks to Mark Curenton who has served in this position for many years. Mark is the AAHS Historian and will remain on the Cemetery Committee.



### GHOST WALK OCTOBER 30 IN CHESNUT STREET CEMETERY



**CHESTNUT STREET CEMETERY  
HAS A  
GO-FUND-ME PAGE!**



## New Docent Jerry Hurley

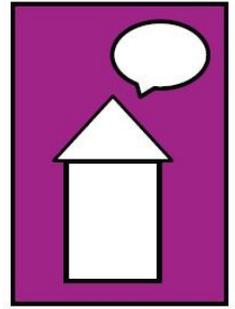
Jerry L. Hurley is a retired teacher and school principal from West Virginia. He joined the Panhandle Players family a few years back. He has been a cast member in numerous productions, and is the author of last season's smash hit, "Secrets and Sweet Tea." Jerry is a published poet and author. You can find his book, "Wildcrafting and Other Stories I Share Only With My Friends" at Downtown Books & Purl. Jerry has been a native of Apalachicola for the past eight years. He has taken on docenting (Tuesdays) with great flare and has even suggested he do it in costume/character.



## IF THIS HOUSE COULD TALK

2022

Riding high on the fun we had in 2021 with this event, we are planning on doing it again in May 2022. Homeowners create storyboards telling the history and/or fun stories about their houses. We help you with research and design ideas and you display the storyboards in front of your house for 2 weeks. No one enters your house. The 2021 event was well promoted and very well attended! This year the TDC will supply promotional funds.



If you'd like to be a part of ITHCT this year, please call or text Pam Richardson at

413-657-3621.

*Last year's participants are welcome to do it again!*

**HERITAGE DINNER  
POSTPONED TO 2022**

The AAHA manages the David G. Raney House Museum located at 128 Market Street in historic downtown Apalachicola. The museum is owned by the City of Apalachicola, operated by the AAHS, and supported by the Franklin County Tourist Development Council. The Raney House is open from 10:00 to 4:00, Tuesday - Saturday. Admission is free, but door donations are gladly accepted.

AAHS phone number:

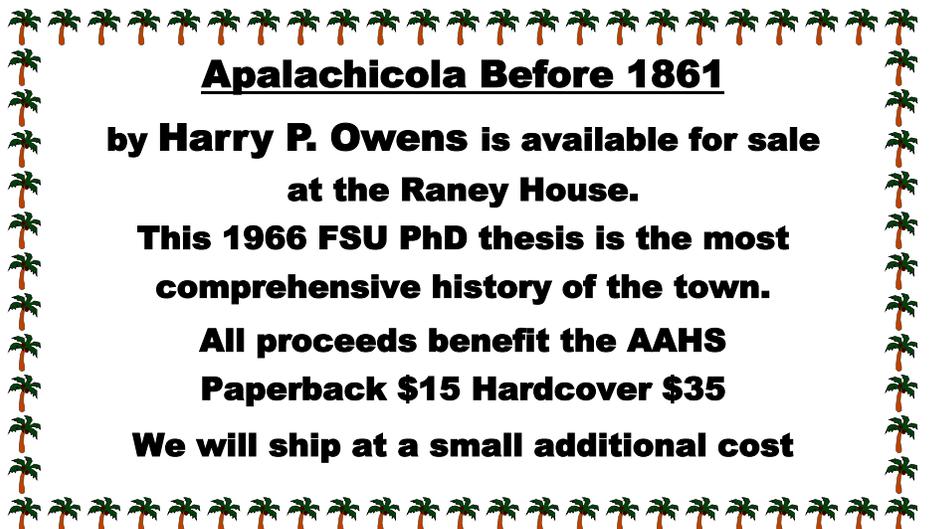
850-653-1700

AAHS website:

[apalachicolahistoricalsociety.org](http://apalachicolahistoricalsociety.org)

*Keep in touch :*

Apalachicola Area Historical  
Society @ Facebook

  
**Apalachicola Before 1861**  
 by Harry P. Owens is available for sale  
 at the Raney House.  
 This 1966 FSU PhD thesis is the most  
 comprehensive history of the town.  
 All proceeds benefit the AAHS  
 Paperback \$15 Hardcover \$35  
 We will ship at a small additional cost

**AAHS BOARD FALL 2021**

Caty Greene, President

Pam Richardson, Vice President

David Adlerstein, Director

James Hargrove, Director

Director position VACANT

Mark Curenton, Historian

Judy Allen, Adjunct Historian

Kim Davis, Treasurer

Vacant, Recording Secretary

**PLEA FOR HELP IN MAKING THE AAHS ITS BEST:**

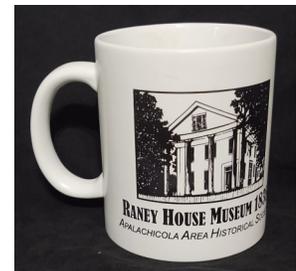
**Secretary:** A Person to take Minutes at Board and other meetings. This is a voting member of the AAHS Board

**Master Gardeners,** to help maintain and enhance the gardens around the Raney House, and maybe in the Chestnut cemetery as well  
**A person with fundraising skills** to help design a corporate and other special & essential initiatives

**Web design and maintenance needed**

**COFFEE MUGS FOR SALE AT RANEY HOUSE \$8 —**

**Great Holiday Gift**



**APALACHICOLA AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP**

**\$15 INDIVIDUAL; \$25 FAMILY; \$100 SUPPORTER ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP**

Become informed and be involved in the history of Apalachicola, and the surrounding area and receive notification about events and activities. The AAHS is dedicated to preserving our history through the preservation of land, buildings, cemeteries, artifacts, and verbal and written materials, and we need your help.

AAHS operates the David G. Raney House Museum (owned by the City of Apalachicola) funded in part by the Franklin County Tourist Development Council. We welcome visitors to this valuable historic building. Special tours can be arranged, call 850-653-1700 or through email: [AAHS.Raney@gmail.com](mailto:AAHS.Raney@gmail.com);

[www.apalachicolahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.apalachicolahistoricalsociety.org) (Memberships and renewals also available online)

NEW MEMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL MEMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS (please): \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A VOLUNTEER: YES NO or SERVE ON A COMMITTEE: YES NO

WHAT ARE YOU INTERESTED IN: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT PAID: \_\_\_\_\_ CASH: \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK: \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN FORM TO: Treasurer AAHS P. O. Box 75 Apalachicola, FL 32329