

AAHS Newsletter

WINTER 2022



Preserving the Port's Past



GRANTS UPDATE

AAHS participated recently in lobbying with the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation for the Division of Historical Resource's Special Category Grants. The Trust is optimistic that the full \$21 million will be approved for all applicants. If so, the AAHS Raney House Restoration grant will get funded. Funding amounts should be determined within a few weeks. In the meantime, alternative funding has been secured for replacement of the Raney House columns.

Thank you CRA and TDC!

Slavery in pre-Civil War Apalachicola

US Census records and US Slave Schedules show that enslaved people in Apalachicola numbered 378 in 1850 and 520 in 1860. In both years, enslaved people represented about 25% of the total population; that percentage would be much higher if we compared the number of slaves to the number of households.

The question of whether or not the Raney family owned slaves can be undeniably answered in the affirmative. Federal documents reveal that in 1840, David G. Raney had eight slaves (2 males aged 10-23, 2 females 10-23, 2 females 24-35, and 1 female 36-54); in 1850, Raney owned six slaves (5 females aged 45, 35, 25, 20 and 8 and 1 male age 40); and in 1860 David Raney's slaves numbered nine (7 females aged 50, 45, 45, 40, 40, 18 and 18 and 2 males aged 52 and 38). Tragically, though, we have no knowledge of anything about them; not their names, their relationships to each other or where they came from. These people existed, then and now, as mere numbers. It has been said that one of the longtime Raney slaves was named Susan and that she was born in 1821, but if that is true, her age does not correspond with the ages of any of the female slaves owned by Raney in 1850.

Additionally, slave manifests of ships travelling between Apalachicola and New Orleans in the years 1827 to 1860 ascertain that (1) on December 26, 1840 David Raney shipped a 45-year old male slave owned by him to New Orleans; of that man, we know only that his name was Jameson and that he stood 5'6", (2) on May 11, 1847, Commission Merchant Raney shipped – but did not own – eight slaves to New Orleans; they were Bob-40, Peter-35, Dick-25, Rachel-30, Silvey-20, Sarah-13, Mary-12, and Ellen-10, and (3) on October 30, 1847, Raney shipped – but did not own – Jim, 25, 5'7" and dark to New Orleans. Whether Raney shipped other slaves to other ports remains, so far, unknown.

AAHS Elves December Wreath-Making

Past “elves” and new recruits spent over a week making attractive wreaths with LOCAL FRESH GREENS to sell at the Chamber’s Holiday Fresh Market and at Random Catch on Water Street.

The effort netted the AAHS over \$1400!

Special thanks to Elly (pictured), Holly and Anita whose wreaths are highly

sought after. One new “elf”, Becca, whose professional design background is a great addition, has a business plan for us next year.



THANK YOU ALL!

The Raney House is pleased to receive shortly, the Daly family “Tall Clock” for its front hall also leather bound books from Bill Gladwin THANK YOU BOTH!

Updates on the coming exhibit of archaeological treasures unearthed by Lou Hill and partners and curated by FSU.



The carriage house has been reorganized, the Philaco Club’s folding chairs have a new more compact rack, and the space will soon be filled with three large glass display cabinets, donated by the new owners of the Chapman House. To preview what will be in our exhibit, see Lou Hill’s PowerPoint

Presentation “Fire, Fury and Flood” on the AAHS website

<https://aahs.wildapricot.org/HResources>



The Resources Page is a place to find all kinds of newsletters, Chasing Shadows articles, past AAHS presentations, research documents, videos and internet links to things like the Territorial Papers.

The Chesnut Street Cemetery report summary and the working Historical Names database are also available.

NOTE: LINKS TO SOME RESOURCES ARE BEING UPDATED



THE FEVER MAN: A BIOGRAPHY OF DR. JOHN GORRIE by Vivian M. Sherlock

The AAHS is pleased to announce the republication of this charming biography. Forty years since its original release, the Sherlock family has agreed to have it republished. Outlets like Downtown Books and the State Park locations are anxious to get copies, and it will of course be available at the Raney House.

Anticipated Release March 2022

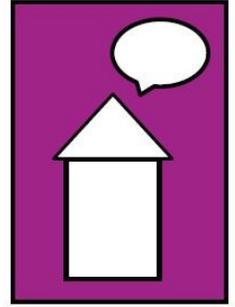
Forgotten Coast Like A Local

The Franklin County TDC has begun a new promotional program with "Captain Finn". Its first episode, Museums, takes place partially inside the Raney House. It's funny and disrespectful, aimed at an audience that might otherwise not visit.

Check it out for yourself:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7o17Yg3AhB4>

**IF THIS HOUSE COULD TALK
MAY 2022**



If This House Could Talk is back by popular demand! Last year's event was so successful that we are doing it again in May 2022. Homeowners create storyboards, with pictures, telling the history and/or fun facts about their houses. We supply you with foamboard and can help you with research and design ideas, then you display the storyboards in front of your house for 2 weeks. People taking the tour do not come onto your property, they just view your storyboard from the street.

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!

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:

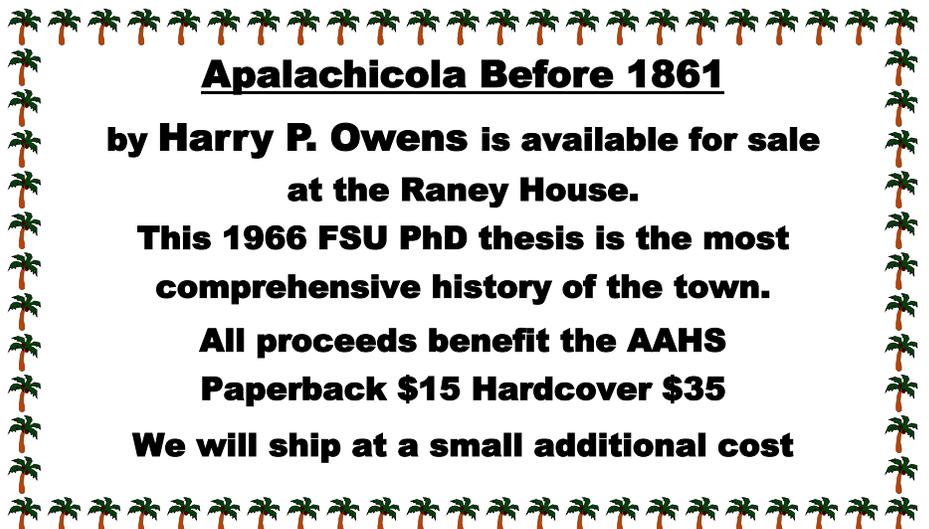
850-653-1700

AAHS website:

apalachicolahistoricalsociety.org

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

Mark Curenton, Historian

Judy Allen, Adjunct Historian

Kim Davis, Treasurer

Vacant, Recording Secretary

MAKING THE AAHS ITS BEST:

STILL NEEDED

Secretary: Someone to take Minutes at Board and other meetings. This is a voting position on the AAHS Board

Master Gardeners to help maintain and enhance the gardens around the Raney House and maybe in the Chesnut cemetery as well
Web design and maintenance

Someone to sell some of our de-accessioned items

COFFEE MUGS FOR SALE AT RANEY HOUSE \$8



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;

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