

Alderman Historical Association

First Reunion Held in 1928
Sidney Bland, President

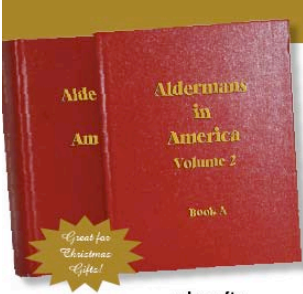
APRIL, 2008

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

**REUNION TIME IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER --
PLEASE SEE THE ENCLOSED REGISTRATION FORM**

Volume II of the Aldermans in America has now been out for almost five months. If you have not purchased yours yet, you can still contact Jack Westberry and get your copy. He will be at the reunion with books for sale! His address is:

Jack Westberry – 2673 Mt. Carmel Road – Newnan, Georgia 30263
Email: jack.westberry@gte.net Phone: (770)251-1016



**The updated
Aldermans in America
Volume 2 (Two Book Set)**

Alderman's in America, approached 50 years since publication and with the coming of new and easier to access resources, the Alderman Historical Association felt it was time for an updated Volume 2. With the large growth the family has enjoyed, Volume 2 will actually be 2 books, this being Book A and dealing with the Southern Branch. Book B on the New England or Northern Branch will be published later.

This book is compiled with over 2000 pages of biographical information, and recognizing the tremendous expansion the family has made over the years.

Great for Christmas Gifts!

preprint **\$155**
orders after **\$170**
Oct. 24, 2007

PRICE INCLUDES SHIPPING

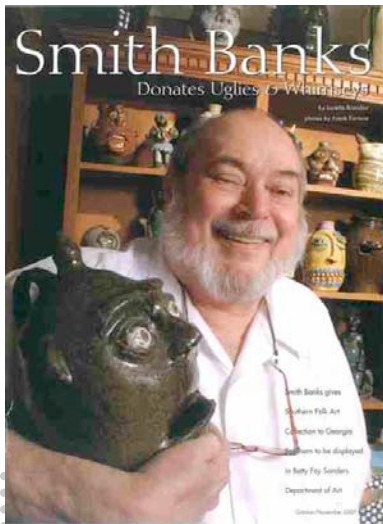
Due to size The Updated Aldermans in America book will only be sold as a two book set.

Scheduled to print late October 2007
so get your orders in early!!

Send Orders to
Jack Westberry
2673 Mt. Carmel Rd.
Newnan, Georgia 30263

ALDERMAN Family Featured Article

Smith Callaway Banks –



Smith Banks has been a strong supporter of the Alderman Historical Association for many years. His name comes up often during discussions on family history. He has been informally spoken of as the Association's "expert genealogist" by many members. While his health has prevented his attendance at AHA reunions for the past few years, he continues to be active. Often referred to as just "Smith", he was instrumental in the grave marking service for Chestley Alderman who died of his wounds after the Battle of Gettysburg. "Smith" is a great great grandson of Sarah C. Alderman (23-12-1) and he is also listed in the new AIA Vol II on page 1393.

Article and Photos taken from the Statesboro Magazine – Oct/Nov, 2007 issue

Smith Banks gives Southern Folk Art Collection to Georgia Southern University - *To be displayed in Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art*

Walking into the room that holds Smith Banks' collection of folk art feels like being transported to another, more basic plane. Like Alice in Wonderland, visitors fall down the rabbit hole and find a whole new world among the unique and colorful pottery, paintings, and artifacts that line his shelves and walls.

"I didn't know much about folk art when I started, but I knew what I liked," said Banks. "I have had such a good time collecting these pieces. This work reflects my own taste, the things I like."

Thanks to Banks' generous spirit and love of learning, his delightful Southern Folk Art Collection will soon be displayed in its new home, the Fine Arts Building at Georgia Southern University. Banks has donated approximately three-quarters of his collection to the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art, along with resources to catalog and maintain the artwork.

"I visited an exhibit of work by Georgia potters at the Atlanta History Center, and I saw how much people liked it," Banks explained. "As I watched them, it gave me the idea of sharing my enjoyment in the pieces I've collected."

"Smith Banks' gift opens up amazing new learning opportunities for Georgia Southern students and for the community," said Jane Hudak, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. "The folk paintings, the pottery, all of these are superb examples of an artistic tradition tied to Georgia's history and culture. The Banks collection provides a foundation for faculty and student research projects and a fine opportunity for developing art education programs for K-12 students in our area schools."

At first glance, the collection seems overwhelming. As Georgia Southern gallery coordinator Mary Margaret Jones slowly identifies, wraps, and packs each piece, you can see specifically what has caught Banks' interest: ceramic animals, whimsies, walking sticks, historic postcards, folk art, and a favorite, ceramic face jugs, which he refers to as his "uglies." Banks' Southern Folk Art Collection includes 225 folk art paintings and more than 200 face jugs and ceramic pieces.

Cassie Lockard, a graduate student pursuing an M.A. in history at Georgia Southern, has completed the research for the two-dimensional part of the collection, using the Internet to learn more about the artists and their work. Some artists leave dates and messages on their work, and others leave no name and no date, making it important to record Banks' memories of each piece.

"Early face jugs came from England and Germany," said Banks. "Potters in the Carolinas and Georgia began to make face jugs in the 1830s and 1840s. I've heard that the "ugly" faces were to warn children not to touch the jugs, which held vinegar, syrup, medicines, or even Papa's liquor. Some say it's an African American tradition, but I really think Southern face jugs are an adaptation of pottery from Europe."

"I bought my first face jug in the 1980s for \$45," said Banks, "but one day a good friend asked me if I'd seen what face jugs were selling for on the Internet. I was amazed at their value, especially for signed jugs, and found myself steadily adding to my collection. Today some face jugs sell for thousands of dollars."

In years past Banks enjoyed visiting the Mossy Creek Craft Fair, a juried fair in Perry, Ga., where he found a wealth of folk potters, including members of the world-famous Meaders family. The late Lanier Meaders, perhaps the most famous face jug artist, influenced many young artists—some third- and fourth-generation family members—to continue this type of folk pottery.

Smith Callaway Banks came to collecting Southern folk art later in life. In his younger years he worked in his family's business, the City Dairy, and later became vice president of Banks Dairy Farm. He also served as president of the City Dairy, which sold milk wholesale and retail. For three generations the City Dairy delivered milk to families in Bulloch County and the surrounding counties bright and early every morning.

When the dairy was sold in 1974, his love of history moved him into the business of buying and selling fine antiques. He traveled extensively, even "touching the tombs of his ancestors" in England. A series of health problems in 1991 forced him to retire and reduced his mobility, but he found ways to remain involved. In the past decade he's found that the Internet is a wonderful way to remain active in the world of collecting.

An avid supporter of the Statesboro Regional Library, Banks is the area's leading historian and genealogist. He was chairman of the library's board for nearly 20 years, and served at the time its current building was built. He was instrumental in getting the area's genealogy repository, the Brannen Room, established there, and has served many times over the years as an officer in local and regional genealogical societies.

"I am so very proud of that wonderful library building," said Banks. "My great-uncle, William Lawton Brannen, worked with me to help gather financial support for the building from the Brannen descendants."

Smith Banks is one of the many Brannen family descendants who remain in Bulloch County. His mother and father were raised on neighboring Bulloch County farms, so he is inevitably connected by blood and by marriage to many local families. Since the 1960s he has worked on developing a printed genealogy of the Brannen family, and so far has records of more than 8,000 people in the database – a mere "drop in the bucket," in his words.

Banks has made a major investment in the Statesboro Regional Library's Brannen Room, selecting and purchasing hundreds of genealogical volumes to add to the collection. He has collected genealogical material for more than 40 years, and the Brannen Room collection is counted as one of the outstanding genealogical collections in the U.S. It is also one of the most useable.

"I still receive both electronic and written mail from as far away as Washington State and California, from people telling how grateful they are for the use of Brannen Room materials," said Banks. "They are especially pleased to use the Confederate soldier rosters I have gathered."

"We have an innate need to belong to something greater than ourselves," Banks said in a 2001 interview. He believes we do that by learning all that we can about our family history. "The more we know about family members who came before, the better we understand where we fit in to the story."

He has told some of those stories as he wrote two books, *A Roster of Confederate Soldiers of Bulloch County, Georgia* and *A Bulloch Sampler*. With another Bulloch County historian, Del Presley, he has co-written two pictorial histories, *Images of America- Bulloch County* and *Images of America-Statesboro*. Many of his articles can be found in the Bulloch County Historical Society's annual "Readings in Bulloch County History." He wrote several pieces for the Statesboro Herald's Bulloch Centennial publication, *The Spirit of a People*, and worked on the script of the Bulloch Bicentennial Pageant, *Wiregrass*.

Over the years the community has recognized Banks' commitment to the region. He is a recipient of the Deen Day Smith Award for Service to Mankind, and also a recipient of the Deen Day Smith Lifetime Achievement Award.

Although his sight is limited and he can no longer drive, Banks maintains a happy attitude. He takes pride in his three children and five grandchildren: Laura, who lives in Wisconsin, and her daughter Amanda; John, who lives in Bulloch County, and his sons, David and William; and Sarah, along with sons Daniel and Phillip, who live in Statesboro. Anyone who visits him comes away with a treasure trove of great stories, some happy memories, and a smile.

Banks admits that donating his collection hasn't been easy, and that he sometimes has second thoughts. But the prospect of having many people share what has given him such pleasure is an encouragement.

"I know that the folks in the Betty Foy Sanders Art Department at Georgia Southern are the best," says Banks. "I know they'll take good care of my 'babies'."

I received an email from Smith Banks in which he stated: **One of the potters who came to the dedication was Clint Alderman. He lives in North Georgia. I almost fainted when he told me that he was here early to look for his ancestor's grave. I ask who? He said David Alderman. Clint's work was on display at the dedication. I am not sure which David is his ancestor. He said his ancestor's family went to Florida.**

"Smith" you are in our thoughts. Keep up the good work.

Cemetery Update:

The new fence has been in place since early last year (2007) and doing a great job of protecting the site. We are now working on getting the John Alderman, Jr. headstone repaired. It was broken off at the base sometime over the past two years and took back seat to the fence project which would protect all of the headstones. The Board of Directors has approved the expenditure of approximately \$500.00 to have the stone repaired prior to the reunion. We had hoped to secure enough SAR Color Guard members to have a formal dedication but their schedules have not aligned with our reunion date. We will try again next year to line this up. The Association always appreciates donations to help with the on-going maintenance of the cemetery. You can make those at the same time you register for the reunion or mail them directly to the Treasurer using the address in the border at the bottom of this page. We sincerely appreciate everyone's help.



Left: Picture of the broken headstone and the base.

After repair, the break will still be visible but the original stone will be reinforced and placed back on the pedestal.

Reunion Contact Information -

<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
Sidney Bland - President Susan Bland – Treasurer	(910)532-2667	susan@intrstar.net
James A. Ezzell	(910)532-4749	
James E. Alderman – newsletter	(817)605-0538	alde711@aol.com

Help Us Save Money on Postage !!!

If you have an email address and are receiving this letter via snail mail, please send James Alderman your email so he can save the Association the cost of mailing a letter. Many of you have sent in your email address and it is much appreciated. Don't forget to send us a note if you change addresses.