

Director's Corner.....

Our center is now in its eighth year and our programs get progressively better. The **Family History Workshop** on **February 23** will be the best ever, with an exciting array of presenters and topics. It is also the 275th anniversary of the founding of Georgia, with many special events scheduled throughout the state. Ours will be one of the best. **General James Oglethorpe**, Georgia's founder, will recount some of his aspirations and trials in the colony's earliest years. Portraying the founder will be **Scott Hodges**, now famous throughout Georgia as the embodiment of the famous adventurer and philanthropist. Bring your camera and make a picture for your great grandkids to cherish. Scott will be wearing his elaborate attire complete with red coat, sword and tri-corner hat.

Ken Thomas, an authority on genealogy who has written a column for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution for many years, will participate as well. Recently retired from the State Historic Preservation Office in Atlanta, Ken has a wealth of knowledge about Georgia history and preservation. He will share some of his most memorable experiences with us, laced with his talent for humor and irony.

Also on hand will be **Valerie Frey** who is writing a book on Georgia cuisine and family traditions. She will be speaking and hopefully signing her new book—that is, if it is off the press. Valerie, until recently, was Education Coordinator at the Georgia Archives, but left Atlanta to marry an U.S. Air Force pilot. They live in Warner Robbins.

During lunch, we will have a round-table discussion growing out of a talk last year by Terry Barton on DNA and genealogy. Several of last year's participants will comment on their experiences using DNA to track family relationships. **Earl Cagle**, president of the Gilmer County Genealogical Society, which is co-sponsoring this year's event, will recount an experience he has entitled "GEN, DNA, and MIA;" research that led him into tracking an "unknown soldier."

Dr. Joe Kitchens

CLOSED ON MONDAY

**The Funk Heritage Center is closed on Monday.
We are open Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m.— 4 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. — 5 p.m. & Sunday 1 - 5 p.m.**

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Funk Heritage Center is to tell the story of the early Appalachian settlers and Southeastern Indians through educational programming and the collection, care and exhibition of art and artifacts.

A Trip to the North of Ireland Nine days—seven nights September 2008

FUNK HERITAGE CENTER LANDSCAPE PROJECT

Work continues on our landscape improvements resulting from a grant from the **Upper Etowah River Alliance** and contributions from local businesses and individuals. Two demonstration rain-gardens are finished. This conservation project will reduce storm water runoff and water pollution. **Pike Nurseries** donated ten huge boulders which are now in place behind the museum. This generous donation is an attractive addition to the landscape. Drought tolerant native plants, donated by local nurseries and the **Georgia Native Plant Association**, will be planted this spring. **Buck Jones Nursery** donated a large Princess Dogwood tree and rocks that mark off a butterfly and wildflower garden planted by children who attend the FHC Nature Club.

Bill Ross, our volunteer landscape architect, will soon finish the xeriscaping in the rear of the facility and then work will begin on the front of the building. Xeriscaping landscapes use plants native to the state. This reduces the amount of irrigation necessary to maintain the landscape, thus conserving water. In addition, we are improving our nature trail. The Northcutt Trail will also feature native plants. **Steve Scott** and **Marvin Colston**, members of the **Cherokee Master Gardeners**, will be working on a brochure which will help visitors identify the many plants in the landscape.

"**Van**" **Van Buskirk**, our volunteer gardener, will be planting this spring and welcomes other interested gardeners to join him on Fridays. Individuals who would like to donate native plants or volunteer to work on the project can call **Martha Hout** at 770-720-9222 for information. She said, "Once this project is finished, visitors will be able to not only enjoy the beauty of the landscape and demonstration gardens, they will also have an opportunity to learn how to conserve water and protect the environment."

Annual Volunteer Holiday Celebration



On December 6, the museum held a luncheon to thank volunteers for their work throughout the year. Holiday food and decorations were plentiful. Advisory board members **Dr. Floyd Falany** and **Mr. Norman Paschall**, addressed the group of seventy volunteers and guests. They recounted their memories of how the museum was established. The Funk Heritage Center opened November 16, 1999.