

## Across The Savannah

Librarians are Angels

By TOM POLAND  
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Non-textbooks got our attention, and grammar school trips to the library always perked us up. We'd form a line and head to the library where a wonderful librarian, Miss Sarah, read to us and taught us the Dewey Decimal System. I can see her smiling now. She'd pull up a chair as we gathered around and tell us about the books she was about to read to us.

After her readings, I'd go from section to section reading the titles of books and looking at the strange numbers in white ink upon their spines. Some of you will recall the card catalog and how you located books. The system is a sort of methodical, if primitive, Google. Numbers 800 to 899 cover literature. Numbers 200 to 299 cover religion and so forth. Decimal points after the main number direct you to the sub-section you're seeking. The letters following the decimal points come from the author's name or book's title. Books are shelved in alphabetical order. It works pretty well. And I'll say this about Google. It's fast and comprehensive but you don't get that familiar fragrance of paper and ink. And Google comes with no smiling librarian.

All these memories of libraries and librarians came back to me a good while back when I stumbled across an old card catalog in an antique shop. Remember those long drawers stuffed with cards? Today computers guide you to what you seek. When Google made the scene a lot of doomsday prophets predicted the death of libraries. Who needs a library anymore? Find whatever you want from your home or office.

Not so fast. The libraries and librarians adapted to the new ways



Near the Willington Academy marker was a cemetery, and there I came across the grave of a librarian. (Photos by Tom Poland).

and going to the library is more productive than ever. I speak at a lot of libraries about my books and back-road adventures. I go too to hear other authors discuss their work. You can google a book while in a library, then mosey over to a shelf and hold said book in your hand, but we still need librarians for their insight and assistance in accessing a myriad of resources.

Librarians. What angels. What great help they have long provided. Thursday July 1 two ladies and I made a back-road trek into western South Carolina. Near Willington, South Carolina, we searched for the site of Willington Academy. Doctor Moses Waddell's Willington Academy, a log-constructed classical school for boys, was perhaps antebellum South Carolina's most prestigious preparatory school. We left a back road for another back road and left it for a dirt road. Near the Willington Academy marker was a cemetery, and there I came across

the grave of a librarian. Devilish fire ants had put up a mound right by the lady's marker and their hill of mud had obscured much of the engraving.

Ms Ryan was born in 1900 and died in 2002. What changes and history she witnessed. And imagine the students she helped through tumultuous times. On her librarian's grave were these words. "There is no Frigate like a Book To take us Lands away nor any Coursers like a Page/Of prancing Poetry." — E.D. The initials stand for the author, Emily Dickinson. The entire poem reads... "There is no Frigate like a Book/To take us Lands away/Nor any Coursers like a Page/Of prancing Poetry/This Traverse may the poorest take/Without oppress of Toll/How frugal is the Chariot/That bears the Human Soul.

Back when I saw that old card catalog I made a mental note to write about librarians someday. Seeing the librarian's grave gave me the push I needed. Librarians hold the key to knowledge and we owe librarians, past, present, and future, a huge thank you. Visit your local library soon. You'll be glad you did.



Willington grave.

## Baseball's Best

### Marion was South Carolina's 'Mr. Shortstop'

By LAMAR GARRARD  
Baseball historian



"Yes, he's Mr. Shortstop in person. Some of the things he does have to be seen to be believed. And he is just as grand a person as he is a ballplayer." — Billy Southworth, St. Louis Cardinals manager.

Reading the above quote, one could interject the name of Hall of Fame Cardinal shortstop of yesteryear, the incredible Ozzie Smith, and it would fit the quotation perfectly. However, Billy Southworth was speaking of Martin Whitford Marion, "Marty," born December 1, 1917, in tiny Richburg, South Carolina. Tucked away in Chester County in northern South Carolina, Richburg today has less than 300 citizens. The largest town close by would be Lancaster. Marty Marion's family's ancestor was the famous South Carolina Revolutionary war hero, Francis Marion, better known by the name "Swamp Fox."

When Marion's dad took a job with Georgia Power, the family moved to Atlanta when he was a small boy. Marty attended the celebrated all-boys school Tech High in downtown Atlanta. Tech High is noted for giving us the world's finest golfer, Bobby Jones. Another graduate was the producer of the best chicken sandwich on the planet, none other than Chick-fil-A's founder, Truett Cathy. Marion enrolled at Georgia Tech as an architecture student, but baseball took him down a different path.

### Norman descendants will gather Aug. 6-7 for family reunion

The descendants and family members of William Norman will gather in Lincolnton the weekend of August 6-7.

The Kith-n-Kin fellowship begins Friday night, August 6, at The Lincoln Center with registration at 6:00 p.m. Dress casual and bring a finger food to share. Enjoy an evening of fellowship complete with genealogy lineage charts, old photos, family documents, etc.

Saturday, August 7, the guided cemetery tour leaves The Lincoln Center parking lot at 9:00 a.m. The Old William Norman cemetery, Norman-Stevenson cemetery, Glaze cemetery and the Hawes-Ward cemetery are included on the tour. A memorial service to remember those Norman descendants and their spouses that have passed away since August 2019 will be held at Midway United Methodist Saturday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to stay for a short business session immediately afterward. Saturday night at 7 pm there will be a catered dinner at the Lincoln Center. Dress will be dressy casual.

Plans are being made to pay tribute to the Norman descendants who have attained 90 years of age (or will be 90 by Dec. 31st of 2021). The program will be held after the dinner on Saturday night, August 7th. We also want to recognize those descendants who are 85-90. Please send info of anyone qualifying before July 15th to Kevin Beggs, 706-401-2226.

Our memorial service remembers each Norman descendant and spouse that is known to have passed away since the last reunion in 2019. A program booklet of obituaries is handed out to those attending. If you have family members who should be included please contact Paula Perkins before July 15th to verify we have received this information by email, paula.perkins-dna@gmail.com.



"Mr. Shortstop" model glove.

Marty Marion was a tall lanky 6'2" 170-lb. quick and agile ball player that started his minor league career after a tryout in front of then St. Louis Cardinal's General Manager Branch Rickey. Rickey later was the man who, as Brooklyn's general manager, signed Jackie Robinson to a contract. Marty had an older brother, Red, who played two years for the Washington Senators. His other two brothers played a few years of minor league ball.

Marty Marion broke in with the St. Louis Cardinals in 1940 at age 24. The eight-time All-Star put together a lifetime batting average of .263 in 1,572 big league contests. With his stellar fielding, the National League 1944 MVP led the league in fielding percentage, put-outs, and assists three different times. The Cardinals won four pennants in Marion's 11 years with the team. Marion later posted 356 wins while managing the Cardinals,

Browns, and White Sox. In the 1950s, a few of the notable shortstops in the majors were names like Reese, Rizzuto, Aparicio, Banks, Kubek, Dark, Groat, Logan, Kuenn, McMillan, Hamner, Carrasquel, and of course Mr. Marion.

When I played Pony League and junior college baseball, I used a Rawlings glove, Marty Marion model, while playing my position as a second baseman. I guess it would not have been too much of a stretch for me to have played those games as a youth pretending to be Marty Marion, "Mr. Shortstop." I do know that when it came to hitting I was much more likely to have pretended to be a Gil McDougald or a right handed batting singles hitter, rather than a Mickey Mantle or a Babe Ruth. Those teenage baseball memories bring a smile to my face. By the way, I still have that "Mr. Shortstop" model glove.



MR. AND MRS. ROGER CARLTON BOYLE

## Chelsey Elana Pye weds Roger Carlton Boyle May 22

Ms. Chelsey Elana Pye and Mr. Roger Carlton Boyle were wed in holy matrimony at 6 p.m., on Saturday, May 22, 2021 at Quinney Oaks Plantation in Millen, Georgia. The marriage was officiated by Rev. Brian McElveen, who is the bride's uncle.

The bride is the daughter of Roderick and Sharon Pye of Brooklet, Georgia. She is the granddaughter of Jack Pye and the late Jean Pye of Brooklet, and Margaret Holton and the late Alvin Holton of Lyons, Georgia.

Chelsey is a graduate of Augusta State University where she earned a Doctorate of Nursing Practice in May 2020. She is employed as an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner in the Infectious Disease Department of University Hospital in Augusta.

The groom is the son of Thomas Boyle and Leslie Dittmer-Boyle of Lincolnton. He is the grandson of the late Bettye and Herb Dittmer of Lincolnton and Margaret Boyle and the late Charles "Bucky" Boyle of Allentown, Pennsylvania.

Roger is a 2008 honor graduate

of Lincoln County High School, and a 2013 graduate of Augusta University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. He is a perioperative nurse in the Surgery Center of the Eye Physicians and Surgeons of Augusta (The Eye Guys). He is also employed as a captain flying Beechcraft King Air C-90 in the Charter Department of Augusta Aviation.

Bridesmaids for Chelsey were Jenna Campbell Rockett of The Colony, Texas, Chandler Crosby of Augusta, Georgia, Rebecca Brigidon of Lincolnton, Georgia, and Madelaine Ryan of Boise, Idaho.

Groomsmen for Roger were Tom Boyle from Lincolnton, Tyler Blount of Lincolnton, Dr. Ryan Smith of Evans, Georgia, and Ryan Trapp of North Augusta, S.C.

The reception took place beneath the boughs of old southern pecan trees on the beautiful grounds of Quinney Oaks Plantation in Millen.

Following a honeymoon in Iceland, the couple will reside in Lincolnton.

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### NOTICE OF ELECTION

The City of Lincolnton will be holding an election on November 2, 2021, for the office of Mayor, Council Post 4 and Council Post 5. Dates for qualifying will be August 16 – August 18, 2021, at City Hall from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. each day. The qualifying fee is \$120.00 for the office of Mayor and \$72.00 for the office of Council. The term of office is four (4) years; January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2025.

To qualify to run for office, a person must be a registered voter of the City of Lincolnton and have been a resident of the City for twelve (12) months immediately preceding the election. (City Charter, Article 11, Section 2.11).

The last day to register to vote in this election will be October 4, 2021.

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July 24: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lunch provided  
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