

Richland Restoration League, Inc.

“Family and Friends of Historic Richland Church”

Post Office Box 681, Jeffersonville, Georgia 31044

www.historicrichlandchurch.org

Richland Baptist Church – Circa 1844
2204 Old Richland Road, Jeffersonville, GA 31044

National Register of Historic Places

Founded 1811



Archived photo from 1948

Bicentennial “Homecoming” Set for October 2nd at Noon

Dear Friends and Family of Richland,

Celebration plans are underway! The Trustees of Richland Restoration League hope you, your family, neighbors and friends are planning to be a part of the ‘family reunion’ and old fashioned ‘dinner on the grounds’ at historic Richland Church’s 200th birthday! What a wonderful opportunity to reunite with folks you haven’t seen in years. We are extending an open invitation to every church in the county and middle Georgia area to be a part of this once in a lifetime celebration. Services start at noon, so families may attend Sunday School at their home church, then drive out to Richland to share in this special day.

In October of 1911, Rev. F. Bartow Asbell delivered the message that would be the last of the first one hundred years of active service at Richland Baptist Church. That was one hundred years ago! On Sunday, October 2nd, his grandson Rev. Francis Wilson will stand in the footsteps of his grandfather and speak to descendants of many of the same families who worshipped at

Continued on Page 2

Event Dates

Oct. 2nd Bicentennial
Celebration
Homecoming and
Annual Business
Meeting of RRL, Inc.

Dec. 3rd “Keeping Christmas
at Richland Church”
6 p.m.

Dec. 4th “Keeping Christmas at
Richland Church”
Matinee 3 p.m.



Returning ‘home’, guest speaker for the Bicentennial Celebration at Richland, will be Rev. Francis Wilson. He and his lovely wife Pat will travel from their current home in Albuquerque, New Mexico to be with us. Rev. Wilson’s childhood home is Cochran, GA and he is a 1954 graduate of Mercer University, with which Richland has many ties.

Continued from page 1

Richland during its most active years, 1811 to 1911.

Weslyannes and Civil Folks to Sing at Service

It is a treat to let you know that the Wesleyannes, vocal ensemble from Wesleyan College, chartered just a few short years after Richland was founded, will sing as part of our celebration service under the direction of Nadine C. Whitney. The Wesleyannes have made numerous visits to Richland over the years, and we are delighted to have them come to share in this most special occasion. Wesleyan was the first college in the world to grant degrees to women, and shares a rich history with Georgia much like Richland. In addition to the Wesleyannes, the Civil Folks will also sing, sharing music from the antebellum and Civil War years of the church. Rev. and Mrs. Frank Hendrix, who produce and direct our very popular period program "Keeping Christmas at Richland Church" each year, also direct the Civil Folks group.

Traditional recognition of pioneer families will be just a part of this exciting day. Children and families alike will delight in the period clothing and customs from various periods of the church's history, but most fun of all will be sharing in the feast of "dinner on the grounds" Pack your picnic, call your relatives, bring your favorite covered dishes to share. Tea and lemonade will be provided, as always, by the Twiggs County Sheriff, Darren Mitchum. Bake your cake and meet me at Richland! *Susan*



Archived photo of Richland just after first renovation by RRL in 1949

Restoration Continues but the Loan is Paid in Full

The restoration loan taken out in 2004 by the trustees to preserve the foundation and replace the roof has finally been paid in full! It will be the Trustees great pleasure to "burn the note" at the 200th Anniversary celebration on Oct. 2nd. Many members, trustees family and friends of Richland Restoration League have made it possible to retire the \$90,000 note in seven years! The league is deeply humbled by your continued support in maintaining our beautiful treasure that is Richland Church.



Time and possibly water run-off from the road that was gravel paved, may have led to the disintegration of the original soft hand made brick foundation of the church. Trustees led by league President, Hon. Judge Duross Fitzpatrick secured a restoration loan and began work to save the building from ruin once more.

Renovation of crumbling Foundation began in 2004

Invariably, weather and time wreak havoc on even the staunchest of structures. Richland Church's crumbling brick foundation and its original cedar shingled roof, long covered with tar shingles from its 1948 renovation, suffered greatly over time and in 2004, the foundation began to sag and shift dramatically. The Restoration League began a capital funding drive to raise monies to restore the building once again. Due to time limits for fund raising and imminent danger of deterioration of the foundation, the league obtained a restoration loan and engaged the voluntary services of Rusty Poss, of Madison- Poss in Macon, GA to help oversee the work so that it maintained historical correctness and current building codes.

*Richland Restoration League Inc.
Cordially Invites You and Your Family
To the Bicentennial Celebration of
Historic Richland Baptist Church
1811-2011*

on

Sunday October 2, 2011

At

Noon

*2204 Old Richland Road
Jeffersonville, GA 31044*

*Bring covered dishes to share and plan to stay
and enjoy the traditional “dinner on the
grounds” with everyone.*

Directions:

Old Richland Road is just off I-16 at Exit 24 and GA Hwy 96, near the Huddle House restaurant.

Exit I-16 at Exit 24, turn Right if coming from Macon or Left if coming from Savannah. Old Richland Road runs between the Huddle House and the Interstate. There will be signs for easy recognition. Follow Old Richland Road approximately 2 miles to Historic Richland Church on the Right.



**Richland Restoration
League, Inc.
2010-2011
Board of Trustees**

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Family and Friends of Richland Restoration League, Inc., Just Since 2004

Our Foundation is Strong...

Where We've Been...

- Property Clearing
- Cemetery Restoration
- New "Necessary Houses"
- Gift of Rosewood Grand Piano
- Restoration of cast iron wood stove
- Grant OEMC Foundation
- Grant Grassman Trust
- Grant O. B. Fitzpatrick Estate
- Renderings of future Pavilion
- Case Development
- Long Range Strategic Planning
- Memorial / Donor Recognition
- Commission of Artist Rendering
- Reprint of Church History

Where We're Going...

- With generous contributions from our community, foundations, family and friends the RRL continues to preserve this important part of America's past. The League asks for your continuing support in annual giving, volunteerism, and support of community events.



Our Foundation is strong and grows stronger with your support. To learn how you may support, please visit : www.historicrichlandchurh.org

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