

The Plantation World of Wilkinson County, Mississippi 1792-2012 is an illustrated volume with individual stories of fifty or more plantations, many of which are still occupied, some of those by descendants of the original builders. The book tells the stories of those who established these homes and of the families and their descendants who have often struggled to keep them generation after generation.

It covers 220 years of history - from the frontier days of the Mississippi Territory to today.

The Woodville Civic Club Inc. is an all-volunteer organization founded in 1971 to serve this ante-bellum community. During the past 41 years, it has focused on preservation projects, the operation of both of its museums, and the publishing and collecting of primary source material for researchers and historians.

This publication represents several years of research, writing, and visiting and photographing each site. It has been a volunteer project of the authors and scores of civic minded citizens who have helped them.

All of the proceeds will benefit the preservation and restoration projects of the Civic Club.



Location of  
Wilkinson County,  
Mississippi

FRONT COVER: Hampton Hall 1832



**Stella M. Pitts** was born and raised in Clarksdale, Mississippi, in the heart of the Mississippi Delta.

She attended Millsaps College in Jackson, Miss., and graduated from Mississippi State College for Women in 1958 with a degree in English and Journalism

After spending two years as a news reporter and feature writer on the Clarksdale Press-Register, she joined the staff of the Times-Picayune in New Orleans in 1960; the first woman hired to work on the night city desk since World War II. During her years on the newspaper, first as a full-time reporter and later as a regular free-lance writer, she wrote news stories, historical features, profiles of prominent New Orleans people, and investigative environmental stories.

In 1990 she and her late husband, Times Picayune award-winning photographer James N. Pitts, retired to Woodville, and the inveterate journalists began a new chapter of exploration and discovery in their new home. That curiosity has contributed to the thoroughness of these reports on the plantations and the history of this community.

Mrs. Pitts is the author of *The Burning of Bowling Green* which she co-authored with her husband in 1997; a co-author of *Family Recipes from Rosedown and Catalpa Plantations* with Richard Scott and Mary Thompson, published in 2005; the author of Volume III of *The Journal of Wilkinson County History, Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow*; *An Inventory of Woodville's Historic District*, published in 1992.

**Ernesto Caldeira** came to Woodville in 1971, as a partner in the restoration of Rosemont, and stayed. He is a realtor with Dorian Bennett Sothebys International Realty in New Orleans, and focuses on historic properties in the French Quarter and in the Garden District, and on plantation properties along the river in Louisiana and Mississippi.



He has done a genealogy of the descendants of Samuel and Jane Cook Davis which has been published in Volume IV of *The Papers of Jefferson Davis* at Rice University; a genealogy of President and Mrs. Jefferson Davis which was published in *Burkes Peerage of American Presidents* in London in 1992; and has served as Editor of Volumes I through IV of *The Journal of Wilkinson County History*. He has been the volunteer Executive Director of the Woodville Civic Club since 1971.

His mother was a native of the Azores and his father of Madeira, and he grew up in the Portuguese community in Lowell, Massachusetts. After attending Dartmouth he was for many years in New York City as Associate Producer of *Search For Tomorrow*, the long running CBS-TV day time award winning drama.