

Athens Historical Society's 40th Anniversary & Antique "Show and Tell"

Sunday, October 17, 1999 at 3 p.m.

Athens-Clarke Regional Library Auditorium

Please go through your attic, bookcases, cupboards, and closets to find your portable antique treasures (their provenance doesn't have to be Georgia!) to share at the Society's 40th anniversary meeting. The "show and tell" format will give you time to display and comment on your antique artifact.

The success of this program depends on you! *If you have an item to show, please call the show coordinator, Nancy Bowen at (706) 546-5726, before Thursday, October 14 so your artifact can be included in the 40th Anniversary brochure.*

We're 40!

Our meeting on October 17, 1999, marks the 40th anniversary of the organization of the Society. Turn to the brief history of the society beginning on page 29 of the 1999 Directory to refresh your memory about the origins and activities of the Athens Historical Society. Publications by the society are listed inside the back cover of the Directory and make wonderful Christmas presents!

AHS has grown over the years thanks to the dedication and interest of many long-time members. At the October 17th meeting, we wish to recognize charter members, organizers, past presidents, and authors.

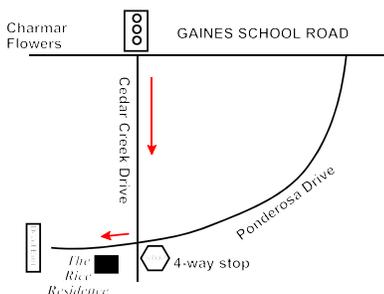
Nominating Committee Appointed

In accordance with Constitution Article V, Sec. 4, a nominating committee has been appointed for the year 2000. Five officers and three board members are elected annually. Nominees will be reported in the Newsletter before the January meeting, at which the annual election is held. If any member of the Athens Historical Society would like to volunteer to serve as an officer or director, or if you have a person you would like to nominate, please contact a member of the nominating committee: Gary Doster (chairman), (706) 208-8287 or email to doster1@bellsouth.net; Margretta Eagon, (706) 543-8187; Rufus Adair, (706) 548-2742.

Athens Historical Society & Georgia Museum of Art Proposed Exhibition of Fine & Decorative Arts Marking the 200th Anniversary of the Founding of Clarke County

AHS is spearheading this exhibit in conjunction with the Georgia Museum of Art - see the insert from President Rice in this newsletter for more information on how you can help. If you know of someone who would like to be a part of this exciting function, please get a copy of the form to them as soon as possible! Extra copies may be picked up at the October meeting or from the Heritage Room at the Athens Regional Library.

The completed form needs to be in our hands no later than Wednesday, November 24th - the day before Thanksgiving so that we may provide an inventory of items to be exhibited to the Museum planning committee! There will be lots of work for all of us to make this exhibition a success!



Map to the Rice Residence

*Please come to the
Athens Historical Society
Holiday Tea
Sunday, December 12
three 'til five*

*at the home of Marion & Molly Rice
505 Ponderosa Drive, Athens*

*R.S.V.P. by December 5th
to (706) 549-6304*

Georgia's Lost Communities
Professor Kathryn Gray-White

Sunday, January 16, 2000, 3:00 p.m.
Athens Regional Library Auditorium

Professor Gray-White teaches a special topics class on Georgia's lost communities at the Watkinsville campus of Truett-McConnell College. Some of the communities she has researched include Petersburg (now under Lake Hartwell), Madison Springs (a popular "watering place" in the 1800s), Hollingsworth (in Banks County), High Shoals (in Oconee County), Goose Pond (an early settlement in Elbert County, birthplace of Governor George Gilmer) and Smithonia (in Oglethorpe County). She has recently published an article in August 1999 issue of *Athens Magazine* entitled "A True Daughter of the Confederacy" and her story on the "Battle of Jack's Creek" will appear in the fall 1999 edition of the *North Georgia Journal*.

Ms. Gray-White will give an overview of these communities and their significance in Georgia's history, then she will speak more extensively about **James Monroe Smith and his "kingdom of Smithonia."** In 1915 Smithonia was a thriving community with over 500 buildings within its borders and boasted its own railroad system. Today, there are only five buildings remaining and the railroad tracks have disappeared.

Folk tales about "Col. Jim" Smith, sometimes known as "the Convict King of Georgia" and his eccentricities still abound. The stories are many: how Smith worked convicts mercilessly and buried him where they fell in his fields; how a visitor, a business acquaintance, spent the night at Smith's hotel and mysteriously vanished; how, after the disappearance of this visitor, one of the convict laborers painted a blue star over what appeared to be a blood stain in the bedroom where he stayed; how Bud Hitchcock refused to sell Smith a railroad right-of-way through his property near Waggoner Grove Church, then woke up one morning to find the tracks had been laid across his property during the night! Come find out more about this colorful chapter of our local history.

THE TOWN CRIER

Charlotte Thomas Marshall, AHS historian and member, will speak on "**Antebellum Athens**" at the Learning in Retirement Luncheon at the Hardeman-Sams House, 255 South Milledge Ave, on Wednesday, Nov., 10, at 12:00 noon. Guests and prospective members of LIR welcome. Luncheon reservations may be made by mailing a check for \$16 per person, payable to Learning in Retirement, to: Marie Moran, 124 Hillsborough Dr., Athens 30606.

Living History Days, sponsored by the Athens Historic House Association, have been scheduled for Friday and Saturday, May 12-13, 2000. If you have an historic property or would otherwise like to participate, please contact Wendy C. DeVaughn, Chair, Athens House Museum Association (a committee under the Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation), telephone 706/542-0437.

Lyndon House Restoration

The five first floor rooms and hall have been refurbished and elegantly refurnished in mid-nineteenth century style. If you have not visited recently, do so and add it to your list of places to take visitors to see, in addition to the Taylor-Grady and Church-Waddell-Brumby Houses. Don't overlook the room of Athens-Clarke memorabilia. AHS member Gary Doster currently has a fine display of turn-of-century photographs and postcards.

A bicentennial history of **Mars Hill Baptist Church** has been published by member Amy Warren Sanders, the culmination of over five years of research. Many early Athens and Clarke residents were members of this historic church. The book is \$53.00 (GA sales tax included) and is available directly from Amy at 102 Crooked Creek Road, Athens, GA 30607. Please make checks payable to *Family Puzzlers TNG*. Amy is also the editor and publisher of the monthly *Family Puzzlers*, *The Next Generation* magazine, the successor to Mary Bondurant Warren's acclaimed weekly genealogical magazine, *Family Puzzlers*, which started in 1964 as a newspaper article and continued publication through 1997. It's nice to see family traditions continuing in this way!

In Memoriam

Myrle Cofield Messer
August 19, 1915 - September 15, 1999

William E. (Billy) Hudson
March 9, 1913 - March 21, 1999

Clarke County Probate Court Records Project

The Athens Historical Society supported the application of the Athens Regional Library for a grant from the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board to find and organize the records of the Clarke County Probate Court. Some of these records date back to the 1790s when Clarke County was still a part of Jackson County, and include Oconee County before its organization in 1875.

Member Laura Carter, the Heritage Room Librarian of the Athens Regional Library, would like to hear from anyone interested in volunteering for this important project. Contact her at (706) 613-3650, extension 350, or by email at carterl@mail.clarke.public.lib.ga.us.

Putting Vigor into our Objectives: *Project Ideas Solicited from Members*

by Marion J. Rice, President

AHS has a noble list of objectives stated in our Constitution - see Article II on page 25 of the 1999 Directory. We have a good publication record, as can be seen from the publications listed inside the back cover of the Directory and are currently engaged in extending our genealogical efforts.

But do we engage our membership? How many of us do any historical research or writing? What can each of us, by our own efforts, do to extend and disseminate our knowledge of the "history of Athens, Clarke County, adjacent counties and related areas"?

We need to get more of our members to actively participate in "doing" history, not just simply attending a quarterly meeting. We need to showcase more presentations from our membership at our meetings and not rely so much on outside scholars with their latest publications.

If you have an idea for a project or future publication that you and some friends might wish to participate in, please take a few minutes to jot it down and present it to one of your Board members. Perhaps our assistance might help you get that project off the ground, to your own satisfaction, and to the benefit of not only Athens Historical Society, but generations to come. Send your ideas in the format shown below to Project Proposal, Athens Historical Society, Inc., P.O. Box 7745, Athens, GA 30604-7745. We appreciate your input and interest!

Name of Project: _____

Proposer(s): _____

Phone number(s)/email address(es): _____

Brief description: _____

Objectives: _____

Time frame: _____

Projected completion date: _____

Resources available: _____

Technical assistance needed: _____

Proposed budget (if funds are requested): _____

Welcome New Members!

Please add these new and renewed members to your 1999 yearbook.

Mr. & Mrs. Buck Adams (F)
450 West Cloverhurst Avenue
Athens, GA 30606-4214
(706) 543-0846

Dr. & Mrs. Tal C. Duvall (F)
775 Milledge Circle
Athens, GA 30606-4367
(706) 549-1349

Judy Masters
389 Westview Drive
Athens, GA 30606-4635
(706) 546-1324

Jean Burge-Channell
750 Kings Road
Athens, GA 30606-3157
(706) 549-6733

Betty Alice Fowler
450 Milledge Circle
Athens, GA 30606-4336
(706) 549-7693

John & Barbara Timmons (F)
305 High Ridge Drive
Athens, GA 30606-1969
(706) 543-2358

Mike Cheatham
P.O. Box 48431
Athens, GA 30604-8431
(706) 546-9519

Hugh & Mary Anne Kenner (S)
203 Plum Nelly Road
Athens, GA 30606-4645
(706) 354-6766
email: hkenner@bix.com

Mr. & Mrs. H. Jack Turner (P)
384 Westview Drive
Athens, GA 30606-4636
(706) 613-6354

Louis DeVorse
587 Harris Road
Lexington, GA 30648-1503
(706) 549-3717

Mr. & Mrs. Emory B. Lewis (F)
First American Bank & Trust, Inc.
P.O. Box 1688
Athens, GA 30603-1688

Don't forget to renew your AHS membership for the year 2000 !

ATHENS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
P.O. Box 7745
Athens, GA 30604-7745

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2000 Meetings

January 16
March 19
May 21
October 15