

Our January 2001 meeting will be held at the Georgia Museum of Art, beginning at 2:30 p.m., Sunday, January 21 with a brief business meeting, to be followed by a guided tour and reception at the opening of

Athens Treasures **AHS-Georgia Museum of Art Exhibit** **Jan. 21 - March 24, 2001**

The Society wishes to thank Mary Bondurant Warren, Nancy Bowen and Tom Wilfong, Ashley Brown and the GMOA, as well as the many lenders of treasures, for their efforts in preparing this exhibit to celebrate Clarke County's Bicentennial.

Yes, Athens has architectural treasures galore that we can view any time we care to hop in the car or take a tour. But this exhibit has brought to light for our viewing pleasure many treasures from private collections as well as public holdings. The stories behind these treasures add to the richness of Clarke County's bicentennial celebration.

In 1801, Clarke County was created by the State Legislature from land originally in Jackson County. At that time, the Cherokee and Creek Indians had not been long removed from the territory by treaty and it was considered part of the frontier. The city of Athens grew up around Franklin College, which opened its doors in 1802. It didn't take long for Athens to flourish, though, and by the Civil War, Athens was the center of culture and industry for this part of Georgia. The University has attracted many people to Athens ever since its inception, not only for an education, but employment and culture - and many of those who came for schooling stayed on to build their futures here. Descendants of these early families still live in the Athens area.



AHS members inspect a serving tray that belonged to Robert Toombs and a lovely red and yellow Cactus Dahlia quilt top, two of the 87 items to be displayed at the [Athens Treasures](#) exhibit. (L-R) Marion Rice, Wilson Elder, Nancy Bowen, Ashley Brown and Mary Bondurant Warren.

For instance, you can see the blanket chest that was given to Confederate soldier John Royal Crawford in 1862 by his grandmother, Rebecca Towns Richards. A handwritten note dating from 1899 is pasted inside the lid. Rebecca Towns married Royal Richards here 28 May 1831; their great-great-grandson, Elmer Jackson Crawford, was clerk of the Superior Court of Clarke County for about 50 years.

Other items dating from the early 1800s and earlier include a child's high chair, a ladderback rocking chair, a small saddle trunk, a Whig Rose coverlet, a dough bowl made in Walton County, a cradle, and a hand-stitched sampler made by Martha Strong in 1818. Miss Strong grew up in Oglethorpe County and married John Dortch Moss in 1824. They and many of their descendants are buried in Athens' historic Oconee Hill Cemetery. Their grandson, Dr. William Lorenzo Moss, was a noted physician and developed a method of blood typing.

The Moss family also has extensive connections to Athens' favorite "watering place," Tallulah Falls. The

countryside around Tallulah Gorge was such a popular place to escape the summer heat and diseases that special excursion trains ran to the town from Athens and Atlanta. Numerous “cottages” sprung up around the seven hotels built along the gorge, one of which, the *Cliff House*, was owned by members of the Moss family. The society sections of the Athens and Atlanta newspapers from the 1880s until about 1920 are full of stories about the house parties and activities at Tallulah. Many of the hotels and houses burned in the early 1900s when fire raged through the town. One of the few houses that survived belonged to the Moss family until the 1980s and is now a delightful tea room, *Isabel's*, overlooking the gorge and the train depot.

During the Civil War, Cook and Brother Armory turned out many weapons for the Confederate Army (see also Michael Gagnon’s article about industry in Athens in this year’s edition of the *Historian*). Three of the guns manufactured here in Athens are on display. Also from this era of Athens’ history are the serving tray that belonged to Robert Toombs, the Georgia statesman who preached “States’ Rights” and secession so vehemently; teaspoons that belonged to Robert Taylor, owner of the Taylor-Grady house; a marble and walnut table made by the Gilleland Furniture Company of Athens; a tureen once owned by Confederate general Howell Cobb; and a secretary, settee and side chairs that belonged to his brother T.R.R. Cobb, also a Confederate general. The Gilleland Furniture Company was owned by the man who designed the double-barreled cannon.

Athens also figured in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin when Forrest Grady “Spec” Towns won a gold medal in the 110 meter high hurdles. This medal has been lovingly preserved, along with photographs of his athletic endeavors at the Olympic Games famous for Hitler’s attitude toward non-white races.

Numerous photographs, paintings and watercolors by local artists such as Lucy Stanton, Roy Ward, George Cooke, “Miss Millie” Dearing, Annie May Holliday, Lamar Dodd and Martha Odum grace the various galleries of the exhibit. Handicrafts made in Athens include such items as the beautiful red and yellow Cactus Dahlia quilt in the photo above made by Amanda Elizabeth Neal, a stoneware punch bowl and glass plate by Earl McCutchen, silver bowls by designer Ann Orr Morris, and flatware by silversmith Asaph K. Childs.

Don’t miss this opportunity to see some of Athens’ “hidden” treasures. The exhibit will be open from January 21 through March 24, 2001. Museum hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Wednesday 10 a.m. - 9 p.m., and Sunday 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. **Closed Monday.** Suggested donation \$1.00.

In Memoriam

Margretta Buchanan Eagon
Birdie Bondurant Clower
Mary Ray Abney
Judge James Barrow
Hart Wylie Smith Shiver

Proposed Slate of Officers for 2001

In accordance with AHS Constitution Article V, Sec. 4, the nominating committee of Laura Carter (chair), Tommie LaCavera and Mary Anne Abbe has proposed these officers to be voted on at a brief business meeting BEFORE the reception on Sunday, January 21:

President:	Tom Wilfong	Treasurer:	George Smith, Jr.
Vice-president:		Historian:	Wilson Elder
Secretary:	Jodie Guy		

New Board of Directors for the term 2001-2003

Robin Towns
Bobby Towns
Milton Hill

Directors for the term 2000-2002:

Walter R. Allen
Ernie Hynds
Marion J. Rice

AHS Publications

Quantity	Title	Price	Total
	<i>Historical Houses of Athens, Georgia.</i> 23-minute color video tour of Athens homes.	\$25.00	
	<i>1874 Map of Athens</i> - 36" x 45", sepia and moss green ink on cream stock. Requires \$5.00 extra shipping	\$15.00	
	<i>Papers of the Athens Historical Society, Vol. II</i>	\$10.00	
	<i>Athens-Clarke County Cemeteries</i> (does not include Oconee Hill Cemetery)	\$30.00	
	<i>Strolls About Athens During the Early Seventies [1870s]</i>	\$5.00	
	<i>Athens Historian, Vol. 1, Number 1. October 1996.</i>	\$5.00	
	<i>Athens Historian, Vol. 2, Number 1. October 1997.</i>	\$5.00	
	<i>Athens Historian, Vol. 3, Number 1. October 1998.</i>	\$5.00	
	<i>Athens Historian, Vol. 4, Number 1. October 1999.</i>	\$5.00	
	<i>Athens Historian, Vol. 5, Number 1. October 2000.</i> with five-year topical index	\$5.00	
	NEW! Five-year set of Athens Historian 1996 - 2000 with index	\$20.00	
SHIPPING & HANDLING - add \$2.00 per book/video, \$5.00 for map			
SUBTOTAL			
2001 Membership (see box below for membership levels)			
Gift memberships - use separate page			
TOTAL OF ORDER - Make checks payable to Athens Historical Society			
<p><i>Please write your name & address in the box below so we'll know where to ship the items! If you wish us to ship them to someone on your gift list, provide name & address & the items to be shipped on a separate sheet. Thank you for supporting your Society with your order & your membership!</i></p>			

Don't forget to renew your membership!

Name _____
(Please give name(s) as you want it/them to appear in the yearbook!)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Choose membership level (*Dues cover the current calendar year*)

_____ Individual - \$10.00 _____ Patron - \$50.00

_____ Family - \$15.00 _____ Business - \$100.00

_____ Supporting - \$35.00

Detach & send with your check to the Athens Historical Society, P.O. Box 7745, Athens GA 30604-7745! Thank you!

Clarke County Probate Court Historical Records Project

A Successful Conclusion, Thanks to Dedicated Volunteers

A very dedicated group of volunteers, under the direction of project coordinator Kathy Hart, Laura Carter of the Athens-Clarke County Library Heritage Room, and Probate Court Judge Susan Tate, worked hard this spring and summer to clean, sort, press and place in special folders 47 boxes of loose estate and guardianship papers in the Clarke County Probate Court. The folders have been alphabetized by surname and will be microfilmed in the near future. Researchers will owe these folks a debt of gratitude for their diligence for years to come.

As part of the project, a computerized *finding aid* was created to help researchers and courthouse staff save time in using the records in the Athens-Clarke County Probate Court. The printed finding aid is approximately 200 pages long and includes a name index to all of the loose estate and guardianship records. Wherever possible, notations were made as to whether the records had been microfilmed and what repositories owned copies of the microfilm.

Bound copies of the finding aid will be placed in the Heritage Room at the Athens-Clarke County Library, in the Probate Court office and in the Records Center at the Athens-Clarke County Courthouse. Additional copies will be sent to the Georgia Department of Archives and History in Atlanta, as well as the Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library at the UGA Main Library in Athens.

***Don't forget to renew your AHS membership for the year 2001!
If you do not see 2001 after your name on the mailing label,
we haven't received your dues for next year!***

☞ N.B. This year there will be no AHS Christmas party - the reception at the opening of Athens Treasures in January will be our celebration of the holiday season and the Bicentennial of Clarke County.

ATHENS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
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Athens, GA 30604-7745

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2001 Meetings

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