

Sowing the Seeds of History

by Prof. Virginia Nazarea, anthropologist
The University of Georgia

Sunday, May 20, 2001, 3:00 p.m.

Athens-Clarke County Library Auditorium

Ms. Nazarea and her husband Dr. Robert Rhoades, both anthropologists at UGA, are founders of the *Southern Seed Legacy* project, a effort to preserve our southern heritage through collecting the heirloom seeds of food and ornamentals that were grown in the past. Many of the early varieties that were so common even on our grandparents' farms are no longer in existence.

Recently a family in Madison, Georgia, discovered several envelopes of seeds in bundles of family letters dating back to the 1860s and 1870s. Some of these seeds have been sent to the National Seed Storage Lab in Fort Collins, Colorado to see if they will still germinate - after more than 100 years in storage!

The members of Southern Seed Legacy group are also trying to increase the interest of collecting and growing heirloom seeds by sponsoring an annual "Old Timey Seed Swap." This is the fifth year of the Swap, which is coming up June 2 in Oglethorpe County. If you or your family followed the Southern tradition of "seed saving," or if you just like gardening, be sure to join us next Sunday for an informative session!

Athens Treasures: A Bicentennial Celebration

The Society would like to express our appreciation to all who labored long and hard to make this exhibition a success, as well as to the kind folks who loaned their treasures that we might all learn a little more about Athens' past. The total attendance for the exhibition was 29,851.

Our special thanks go to Nancy Bowen and Mary Bondurant Warren, the co-chairs of the project; Bill Eiland, Tom Wilfong, Ashley Brown and the GMOA staff for a job well done.

REQUESTS FOR HELP

☛ **An unusual pictorial history of Athens** is being compiled for the Society by Gary Doster using early postcard views from his collection. Gary's collection is extensive, but there still are many scenes of early Athens that he thinks probably were made into postcards that he has never seen. If you have or know of old postcards of Athens scenes, especially something you think is unusual, please contact Gary as soon as possible (706) 208-8287 or by email at doster1@bellsouth.net The book is scheduled to be released before Christmas.

☛ **Call for Articles for *Athens Historian*, Volume 6** - The next volume of the *Historian* is starting to take shape. If you have an article, an old letter, or other item about Athens or Clarke County that would be of general interest, please contact the editor, Henry Ramsey, at (706) 543-8867 or by email at hramsey@bellsouth.net as soon as possible. The deadline for reviewing articles is June 15th.

UPCOMING A.H.S. PROJECTS

☛ **"Separate, but (un) Equal" - An Oral History Project**

Anyone interested in receiving training as an oral history interviewer should contact Dr. Marion Rice at (706) 549-6304, or by e-mail mjrice@negia.net. The goal of this project is preserving and enlarging the oral history of desegregation in Athens and Clarke County.

☛ **Stoneman's Raiders Marker** - Bobby and Robin Towns are chairs of a committee recently formed to work with other interested organizations to raise funds to replace the historical marker commemorating the Civil War skirmish of the Athens Home Guard with Stoneman's Raiders. The marker that stood on U.S. Highway 441 has been damaged in an accident. Please contact them at (706) 548-7291 or by email at robintowns@aol.com if you would like to help.

☛ **Oconee Hill Cemetery book** - Charlotte Marshall has been working diligently over the past months to gather additional information from newspapers, court records, and other sources to annotate the survey of the Old Section published by the Society in 1971. It is coming together nicely and should be released this fall. The survey of the New Section will be published at a later date.