

The Longstreets of Gainesville

by Goodloe Y. Erwin, M.D.

Sunday, May 18, 2003, at 3:00 p.m.

Athens-Clarke County Library Auditorium



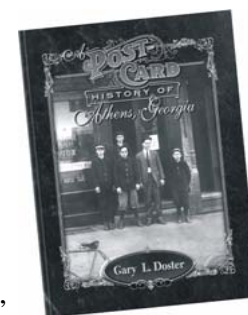
Affectionately referred to by Robert E. Lee as “My Old War Horse,” Lieutenant-General James Longstreet spent his last years in Gainesville, Georgia, with his second wife, Helen Dortch Longstreet. Born in Edgefield District, South Carolina, in 1821, he spent much of his childhood in Augusta, Georgia, then moved with his mother to Somerville, Alabama, after the death of his father in 1833. Longstreet attended West Point at the same time as Generals U.S. Grant, George H. Thomas and William Tecumseh Sherman and fought in the Mexican War under General Zachary Taylor.

General Longstreet was Lee’s second-in-command of the Army of Northern Virginia and participated in many of the major campaigns in the Eastern Theater. But he is perhaps best (or worst) remembered for questioning Lee’s battle plans at Gettysburg. Longstreet’s first wife and mother of their ten children was Maria Louise Garland Longstreet, who died in 1889 after more than 40 years of marriage. In the postwar years, he held various federal appointments, including ambassador to Turkey, before settling in Gainesville, Georgia.

General Longstreet met his second wife, Helen Dortch, while she was a student at Brenau College and an acquaintance of his daughter. They married in the Georgia Governor’s Mansion in 1897 - she was 34 and he 76. They were the proprietors of the Piedmont Hotel in Gainesville for a time and entertained many prominent guests. Longstreet, the last surviving member of the Confederate high command, died in 1904 and was buried in Gainesville, Georgia.

Retired Athens physician and past president of AHS, Dr. Goodloe Yancey Erwin has long had an interest in Gen. Longstreet and is a charter member of the Longstreet Society. The meeting is free and open to the public.

A Postcard History of Athens, Georgia to receive ACHF Award Monday, May 19th



We are pleased to announce that the latest, best-selling AHS book, *A Postcard History of Athens, Georgia*, by Gary L. Doster, will receive an award for Best Publication from the Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation. AHS members are invited to attend the awards ceremony and reception on Monday, May 19th, at 6:30-7:30 at the Lyndon House near Downtown Athens.

The AHS Directory will be mailed soon – if you have not renewed, please do!
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2003 Meetings

- ✓ January 19
- ✓ March 16
- ✓ May 18
- October 19