

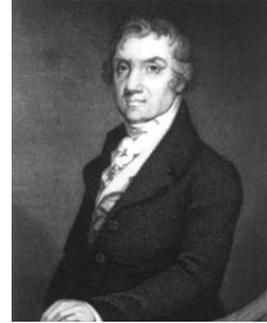
Abraham Baldwin: Georgia's Connecticut Yankee

By Milton Leathers

Sunday, March 19, 2006

3:00 p.m.

Athens-Clarke County Library Auditorium



Abraham Baldwin was born 1754 in Guilford, Connecticut, and graduated from Yale University in 1772. He served as a chaplain in the Continental Army during the American Revolution, for which he received a land grant in Wilkes County, Georgia. He moved to Georgia about 1784, served as one of Georgia's delegates to the Constitutional Convention in 1785, and signed the U.S. Constitution. He represented Georgia in the Continental Congress and the United States Congress from 1787 until his death in 1807.

Baldwin's life-long interest in education led him to push for the establishment of a land grant college for Georgia, which was chartered by the Georgia state legislature in 1786. He lived to see the establishment of Franklin College, now the University of Georgia, in 1801. The meeting is free and open to the public. All are welcome to attend.

Milton Leathers is a native Athenian and a popular speaker. He has been interested in the history of Athens and Georgia for most of his life. In Athens' bicentennial year, 2001, Milton portrayed Baldwin on the "Ride of Five" commemorating the search by the Senatus Academicus for a suitable place to establish the university.

President's Remarks

I am honored to be the president of the Athens Historical Society for 2006. I join a group of presidents, many of whom I have known well or worked with, and I have admired them all for their splendid contributions to the preservation of local history and to the Athens community.

I have always loved history. I learned in high school, as perhaps many of you did, the reason for historical study. My 10th grade history teacher emphasized solemnly: We study history in order to understand the past, interpret the present, and predict the future. I have heard this statement many times since, but the first time was imprinted on me. Of course, we must first save the past, and this concern is one of the major goals of the Athens Historical Society. I hope that many of you will join in the search for subjects that need to be highlighted in our programs and in the *Athens Historian*.

And as we look to the past, we should also look to the future. In a few years, we will have the opportunity to celebrate a most important occasion - the 50th anniversary of the founding of the society on October 11, 1959. I hope that the years leading up to the celebration can be filled with special programs and publications, culminating in 2009 with a symposium, a lecture by an outstanding historian, and banquet. I also would like for us to make a permanent memorial to the community that will be in keeping with the goals and ideals of the society.

Soon a 50th anniversary committee will be formed to guide our endeavors, but I hope all society members will be actively engaged in this enterprise. It can be an exciting time, a revitalizing time. We can honor the past, while working in the present and anticipating a bright future.

Jenny W. Best

Don't forget to renew for 2006!

Athens Historian – The 2005 issue, Volume 10, edited by our new president, Jenny Best, will be mailed to AHS members in the next few weeks. This issue is dedicated to the *Historian's* “founding father” Dr. Goodloe Yancey Erwin, with a tribute written by past president Betty Alice Fowler. The articles include three programs given to the society: *Stoneman's Raid and the Battle of Barber's Creek* by Dr. Erwin, *Coach Herman J. Stegeman and his Family* by Coach Dan Magill, and *First Baptist Continues 175 Years of Service* by Dr. Ernest Hynds. A brief history of the First United Methodist Church by Mary Bondurant Warren rounds out the issue. We appreciate the generosity of these dedicated members of our society for their efforts to preserve the history of Athens and Clarke County.

The 4th Annual COGS Genealogy and History Expo – The Athens-Clarke County Genealogical Society (COGS) invites you to their “extravaganza of genealogy ideas, experts and interest groups” on Saturday, April 15th, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Oconee County Library in Watkinsville. The Ivey Collection will also be open for researchers. In addition to book sellers, interest groups, lineage societies, and research opportunities, there will be a slate of interesting mini-lectures. We will have AHS books, publications, the video *Presence of the Past* - a tour of 21 historic houses in Athens, and the 1874 map of Athens available for sale (they're also listed on the AHS website at www.rootsweb.com/~gaahs with a handy order form).

For more details about the Expo, visit the COGS website at www.rootsweb.com/~gacogs/meetings.html. All activities are free and open to the public.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, May 21, 3:00 p.m., at the Athens-Clarke County Library Auditorium. Hope we'll see you there!

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2006 Meetings
✓ January 15
✓ March 19
May 21
October 15

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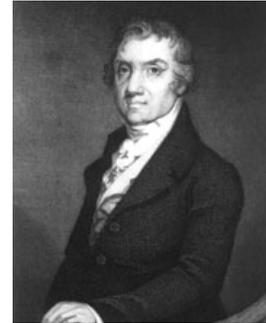
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