

## The History of Newspapers in Athens

By Don Nelson

*Sunday, May 21, 2006*

3:00 p.m.

Athens-Clarke County Library Auditorium

Don Nelson, originally from College Park, Ga., came to Athens in 1969 to attend the University of Georgia. He began his professional journalism career in 1974 when he joined Chuck Searcy, Pete McCommons and Chatham Murray in their effort to start the *Athens Observer*, a weekly newspaper that garnered a reputation as the state's best weekly. Don joined the *Athens Banner-Herald* as associate editor in December 1991, and his work there focuses on local business stories. He is responsible for the *Banner-Herald's* Sunday Business section each week.

At the May meeting, Don will review the highlights of newspapers throughout Athens' history and will offer some perspective on where newspapers may be headed in the future. The *Banner-Herald* will be celebrating its 175th year of publication in 2007.

The meeting is free and open to the public. All are welcome to attend. A reception with refreshments will follow the meeting in the small conference room next to the auditorium.

## President's Remarks

### **Come One! Come All!**

Let's have a membership drive!

The presentations this year have been superb: Charlotte Marshall in January on the symbolism found in cemeteries; Milton Leathers in March on the commemorative ceremony for Abraham Baldwin at his Connecticut home place. The May meeting with Don Nelson on the history of Athens newspapers promises the same rewards.

An added attraction for this meeting will be refreshments following the program. When the AHS officers and board met in April, we agreed that it was a good time for a social.

The conference room next to the auditorium has been reserved for us. There will be punch and treats and lots of pleasant conversation. Everyone will be invited to remain after the program and join us in refreshments.

If any member would like to help with the reception, please free to join in. *Contributions to the tea table would be gratefully received.*

Now is the perfect time to attract new members. Invite your friends and neighbors to the May meeting, and let's share the pleasure. The next chance to extend invitations is October – and that's a long, hot summer away! On behalf of the officers and directors of AHS, we urge you all to come and bring a prospective member on May 21st.

Jenny W. Best

**Georgia Historical Society Announces Online Catalog** – In May, the Georgia Historical Society launched an online catalog of its collections. Founded in 1839, the Society’s library and archives contain over 4 million manuscripts, 90,000 photographs, 24,000 architectural drawings, and thousands of rare books, maps, and artifacts of Georgia history. The online catalog can be accessed through the Georgia Historical Society website: [www.georgiahistory.com](http://www.georgiahistory.com) and allows searches for Author, Title, Subject, and Keywords. As of this release, 90% of the book holdings and 37% of the manuscript holdings are listed online. However, more of the collection is added each day. Please stay tuned to the website or contact the reference library directly at (912) 651-2128 for additional resources. The Society is located at 501 Whitaker Street in Savannah. Our organization is an affiliate member.

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**Thank you to our officers and board** – Our officers for this calendar year are Jenny Best, president; Phyllis Barrow Nelson, vice president; George W. Smith, treasurer; Eve Mayes, historian. Rosie Pope has resigned as secretary and past president Betty Alice Fowler has been appointed to fill her term. Charlotte Thomas Marshall returns as publications chair and Jenny Best is editor for the *Athens Historian*. The board members elected in January for the term 2006-2008 are Milton Leathers, Morgan (Bucky) Redwine and Natalie Wellman. Returning board members for 2005-2007 are Blair Dorminey, Betty Alice Fowler, and Kitty Mell Lay.

**The October meeting** will be Sunday, October 15, at 3:00 p.m., place to be announced. Hope we’ll see you there!

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*Bring a friend to our May meeting!*

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

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# Athens Historical Society

## INTEREST SURVEY 50<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Celebration

Please help the Board of Directors determine the kind of interest and the range of ideas that AHS members might have in developing plans commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Athens Historical Society. The actual celebration date will be in October 2009, but beginning next year we hope to present special programs and initiate special projects that would reflect the interests of the entire membership. Your responding to this survey will help immensely in formulating future plans.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE/EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

*What I Would Like to Include in the Celebration:*

*How I Would Like to be Involved:*

*Ideas for Special Programs/Special Projects:*

**Mail to Athens Historical Society, P.O. Box 7745, Athens, GA 30604-7745  
or bring to the May meeting and give to Jenny Best or Eve Mayes.**

*Thank you very much! Your participation is essential for successful planning.*