

Newsletter

OF THE ATHENS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 7745 • Athens, Georgia 30604-7745

JANUARY 2007

President's Remarks

Jenny W. Best

"To articulate the past historically is not to recognize 'the way it was.' It means to seize hold of a memory as it flashes by at a moment of danger."

Walter Benjamin

Last September I copied down these words from an inscription in the Tate Modern Museum in London. I have thought of them a great deal since. There are many facets to their meaning, but I think the central point is how important preserving our historical memory is. No less in Athens than in London.

The first purpose of the Athens Historical Society given in its constitution is "to discover, collect, and preserve all materials, especially original source materials, pertaining to the history of or in any manner illustrative of Athens, Clarke County, adjacent counties and related areas." To carry out this task, we should support more projects like the local oral history endeavors, and we should initiate more projects that would "discover and collect." My wish for the society for the next year would be for more of an activist role.

A very fine slate of officers for 2007 has been proposed by the nominating committee, and I hope that a large turnout of members on January 21 will endorse their election. Do join in as the society begins its 48th year.



T.R.R. Cobb House in 1901, photo by Hajos

The Return of the T.R.R. Cobb House

One of Athens' treasures has come home, thanks to dedicated efforts of many people and funding from the Watson-Brown Foundation. After waiting 19 years to be made a part of the Antebellum Village at Stone Mountain Park, the historic structure was finally rescued and returned to Athens. It once stood at the crest of the hill behind St. Joseph's Catholic Church and has been reconstructed two blocks away from the original site, on the corner of Hill and Pope Street, near Fire Hall #2.

Sam Thomas, curator of the T.R.R. Cobb House, will present our first program of the year. He will discuss the history of the house, plans for the restored house museum, and how members of the community can contribute to the ongoing research efforts to furnish the house as it would have been in the early 1860s. Please contact Mr. Thomas by email at sthomas@trrcobbbhouse.org or by phone (706) 369-3513 if you know of items from the original house or that date from the desired time period.

Mr. Thomas served as the curator of history for the Culture and Heritage Museums of York County, South Carolina, for more than 15 years, and has written numerous articles and eight books. He was a technical advisor for Mel Gibson's film *The Patriot*.

The meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. in the Athens-Clarke County Library auditorium on January 21, 2007, and is free and open to the public. All are welcome to attend.

Time to renew your membership. If your mail label has 2007 on it, your dues are current.

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 upcoming calendar year)

_____ Individual - \$10.00

_____ Patron - \$50.00

_____ Family - \$15.00

_____ Business - \$100.00

_____ Supporting - \$35.00

***Print this form and mail with your check payable to the Athens Historical Society
to AHS, P.O. Box 7745, Athens GA 30604-7745! Thank you!***

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AHS Officers – 2006

Jenny W. Best – President
Phyllis Barrow Nelson – Vice President
Betty Alice Fowler – Secretary
George W. Smith, Jr. – Treasurer
Eve B. Mayes – Historian

AHS Board of Directors

A. Blair Dorminey
Kitty Mell Lay
L. Milton Leathers
Morgan R. (Bucky) Redwine
Natalie Wellman

Upcoming AHS Meeting Dates

3:00 p.m., ACC Library unless otherwise stated

Sunday, March 18, 2007

Sunday, May 20, 2007

Sunday, October 21, 2007

AHS Website & Information

www.rootsweb/~gaahs

email: ebmayes@myexcel.com

The AHS Nominating Committee – Gary Doster, Kitty Lay and Milton Leathers, chair – announce the slate of officers for 2007. This proposed slate will be voted on at the January 21st meeting: Mary Hoit Abbe, president; Blair Dorminey, vice president; Betty Alice Fowler, secretary; George Smith, treasurer; and Eve Mayes, historian. New board members for 2007-2009 term are Elaine Collier Neal, Wilson Elder, and Jenny Best.

The society offers sincere thanks to the outgoing officers – Jenny Best, president, Phyllis Nelson, vice president, and board members Blair Dorminey and Kitty Lay – for a job well done.

AHS Christmas Party

More than 60 people turned out on Sunday, December 3, 2006, for the AHS Christmas party at the home of Jenny and Edward Best, 101 Moss Side Drive. Delicious refreshments were provided by AHS members. Two special hits were Mary Abbe's olive nut sandwiches and Sharla Campbell's chicken almond mold. Everyone enjoyed the festive atmosphere and catching up with old friends and meeting new ones. Our holiday season was off to a happy start.

Time to Renew! If your mailing label has 2006 above your name, we do hope you will renew your membership in AHS and lend your talents to our projects. Why not give a gift membership to a friend who enjoys history or loves Athens?