

# Newsletter

OF THE ATHENS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

October 2007

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



*The Seney-Stovall Chapel*

## R.E.M. in Perspective: An Athens History

Sunday, October 21, 2007 – 2:00 p.m.

Seney-Stovall Chapel

201 North Milledge Avenue, Athens

*Everybody comes from somewhere* is one of the songs on the *R.E.M. Live* album released earlier this week. This rock group has done more to put our town on the global map than almost anyone in our 200+ years of history. Mention Athens, Georgia, anywhere in the world, and you'll get an instant connection with R.E.M. Not only have they made music history, but

R.E.M. members have given back to this community in so many ways, since the group was organized in 1980. Join us as we record these gifts for future generations, at the site of the recording of their latest studio album, to be released in 2008.

The program will feature two previously unscreened vintage videos of R.E.M. and two panel discussions, as well as rare video clips relating to Athens compiled from R.E.M.'s own archives and recent performance footage. The featured videos include an R.E.M. practice session recorded at Wuxtry Records in Atlanta prior to the release of their first record, and an early performance at the 688 Club in Atlanta. The video of the practice session, filmed by Wuxtry Records owner Dan Wall, is the earliest known footage of R.E.M. playing together as a band.

Biographer Tony Fletcher, author of *Remarks Remade: The Story of R.E.M.*, will open the session with his observations on Athens' place in R.E.M.'s history. A follow-up panel will discuss R.E.M.'s Athens musical and artistic roots. Panelists include producer John Keane, music blogger Frank White, Wuxtry Records owner Dan Wall, Athens music historian Paul Butchart, former manager of The B-52's Maureen McLaughlin, with music journalist Mark Mobley, as moderator.

A second panel will examine R.E.M.'s social, civic, political, economic and preservation impact on Athens and the world beyond. Scheduled participants are former Athens mayor Gwen O'Looney, community activist Tim Johnson, historic preservation advocate Smith Wilson, former 40 Watt Club co-owner and founder of *The Flagpole* magazine Jared Bailey, Weaver D's restaurant owner Dexter Weaver, with Athens historian and preservationist Milton Leathers, as moderator.

**Seating is limited.** The event is ticketed, but free of charge. To reserve a ticket, email [athens\\_historical\\_society@yahoo.com](mailto:athens_historical_society@yahoo.com) or call (706) 789-3452 and leave a message with your name and phone number. Pick up tickets at the table set up in front of Seney-Stovall Chapel on the day of the event, beginning about 1:00 p.m. Unclaimed tickets will be released at 1:50 p.m.

**PLEASE NOTE: This program is being videotaped for possible broadcast and/or video release or podcast at a later date. Your voluntary attendance at this program indicates that you consent to be videotaped as a member of the audience, and to your incidental appearance in any broadcast or video program or podcast that may contain the resulting footage.**

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*If you're not already a member, we invite you to join our efforts to preserve the history of Athens and the surrounding area.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

*Please give name(s) as you want it/them to appear in the directory*

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Choose membership level: *(Dues cover the current calendar year)*

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual - \$10.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Family - \$15.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Supporting - \$35.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Patron - \$50.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Business - \$100.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Please accept my tax-deductible contribution to help fund AHS special projects.

***Mail this form 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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**Papers of the Athens Historical Society, Volume I** has been reprinted and is now available. This publication was released in 1964, edited by Marion West Marshall and Mary Bondurant Warren. The volume contains these articles:

- Athens: Its Earliest History, by Mary Bondurant Warren
- Athenians and Savannahians: 100 Years of Exchange, 1800-1900, by Miss Lilla Hawes of the Georgia Historical Society
- Early Republicans in Athens and Clarke County, by Olive Shadgett
- Howell Cobb and the Secession Movement in Georgia, by Horace Montgomery
- Tom Cobb at the Montgomery Convention, excerpted from *These Men She Gave*, by John Stegeman, M.D.
- The Settlement of Scull Shoals, by charter member Grace Hardigree Collier, and
  - Random Recollections, or Leaves from the Linton Branch of the Hull Family, by Miss Lucy Linton.

An full index prepared by Charlotte Thomas Marshall, and several errata have been added to this edition. The new edition costs \$10.00, but you may purchase both Volume I and Volume II (1979) for \$15.00 (save \$5.00). An order form may be found on the AHS website at [www.rootsweb.com/~gaahs](http://www.rootsweb.com/~gaahs).

## **AHS Officers – 2007**

Mary Anne Hoit Abbe – President  
A. Blair Dorminey – Vice President  
Betty Alice Fowler – Secretary  
George W. Smith, Jr. – Treasurer  
Eve B. Mayes – Historian

## **AHS Board of Directors**

Jenny Best	Elaine Collier Neal
Wilson Elder	Bucky Redwine
L. Milton Leathers	Natalie Wellman

## **Upcoming AHS Meeting Dates**

**October 21, 2007 – R. E. M. in Perspective**  
*Seney-Stovall Chapel, 2:00 p.m.*

**December 2, 2007 – AHS Christmas Party**  
at the T.R.R. Cobb House

**January 20, 2008 – ACC Library Auditorium**  
Election of Officers – Program TBA

## **AHS Website & Information**

[www.rootsweb/~gaahs](http://www.rootsweb/~gaahs)  
email: [ebmayes@windstream.net](mailto:ebmayes@windstream.net)  
or [athens\\_historical\\_society@yahoo.com](mailto:athens_historical_society@yahoo.com)



**The 2007 Christmas Party** will be held in the meeting room of the T.R.R. Cobb House on Sunday afternoon, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 3:00 to 5:00. Park and enter to the rear of the house. Please contact Mary Anne Abbe at [mhabbe@aol.com](mailto:mhabbe@aol.com) or by phone at (706) 354-8107 if you would like to bring goodies to share or help with setting up.

**CAMERA CALL!** – If you have personal, family or commercial archival film or video that shows someone or something interesting in Athens, please get in touch with Blair Dorminey at (706) 254-7787 or [bdorminey@visalawcenter.com](mailto:bdorminey@visalawcenter.com). We're working on a program for next year that will feature home movies and news footage of places, people and happenings in Athens and Northeast Georgia.