

Newsletter

OF THE ATHENS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

December 2007/January 2008

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

***A Trip to “The Bottom”
Across Dougherty and Back in Time
Sunday, January 20, 2008 – 3:00 p.m.
Athens-Clarke County Library Auditorium***

The Bottom in the 1920s and '30s was a close-knit, hard-working community of small shotgun-style homes and neighborhood businesses that had grown up around a cotton mill on Pulaski Street. Families, often headed by a grandmother, looked after each other, raising grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Our speaker, Charles Knox, grew up in this section of Athens, bordered on the east by College Avenue, on the west by Pulaski Street and the south by Dougherty Street. At that time, Lumpkin Street bisected this area and ran down the hill to the train depot on Ware Street. Urban renewal in the 1960s drastically changed not only the landscape of the Bottom, but the lives of many of its inhabitants.

Blues music was an integral part of this area, too – artists who played at the Morton Theater often would come to the Bottom for jam sessions. Neal Pattman, a local business owner and blues harmonica player, often joined in these sessions. Rev. Knox is researching the people and life in the Bottom from the early to mid 20th century before urban renewal demolished the small homes and business enterprises.

Join us for stories, photos and music from the Bottom with Rev. Knox and others on Sunday, January 20, 2008, at the Athens-Clarke County Library auditorium, 3:00 p.m. If you would like to share photos, memorabilia or other information about people who lived in the Bottom, please bring it with you, or contact Rev. Knox at (706) 410-5667. The program will be taped for inclusion in the Heritage Room oral history archives. The meeting is free and open to the public.

R.E.M. in Perspective: An Athens History – The October program at the Seney-Stovall Chapel near Lucy Cobb Institute was a great success – this event has introduced the society to a new generation. More than 250 R.E.M. fans from near and far, as far away as Chicago, Texas, South Carolina and Switzerland, enjoyed the program on this beautiful fall day. A DVD of the program is being prepared and is scheduled for release in 2008; requests for notification have come from fans all over the world.

We would like to thank the program participants for sharing their memories of this dynamic group. A big thank you also goes to Blair Dorminey, who has worked for many months to pull this program together. See www.rootsweb.com/~gaahs/REM_Perspective.htm for more information about the program and the upcoming DVD.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS – We would like to welcome as new members David Cowart and Donna Maddock-Cowart, Elaine Kalber, J. Gordon Lamb III, Judy S. Long, Suzi Wong, Molly Read Woo and Starr Wright, all of Athens; Richard Owens from Lexington, GA; James M. Dedman IV from Greenville, SC; Juliet Easton and Bryan Ihrig from Hull; Doreen Fay, Rick & Diane Jerue of Charleston, SC. These folks joined AHS at the October program, *R.E.M. in Perspective*.

You're invited to the

**2007 AHS
Christmas Party
Sunday, December 2nd
3:00-5:00 p.m.
T.R.R. Cobb House**



Please park and enter from the back of the house.
Guided tours of the house will be at 3:15 and 4:10.

If you would like to bring goodies or prepare decorations, please contact Mary Anne Abbe at mhabbe@aol.com or call her (706) 354-8107 ASAP.



Specials just in time for your gift list

Papers of the Athens Historical Society, Volume I (reprint)

This publication was released in 1964, edited by Marion West Marshall and Mary Bondurant Warren, with 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 Papers, Volume I and Volume II (1979) for \$15.00 (save \$5.00). We'll have plenty on hand at the Christmas Party on December 2nd.

Presence of the Past: Historic Houses of Athens

~~\$25.00~~ \$15.00

Narrated by Ron Bogue, this 23-minute color video features tours and histories of these Athens homes:

- Barrow-Tate House on Dearing Street (guided tour by Mrs. Susan Frances Barrow Tate, widow of Dean William Tate. Mrs. Tate died in 2003.)
- Camak House on Pope Street, now fully restored and used a law office
- Church-Waddel-Brumby House, now the Athens Welcome Center
- Howell Cobb-Leathers House on Hill Street, now a private residence (guided tour by Sarah Erwin Leathers)
- Franklin-Upson House on Prince Avenue, now a BankSouth branch
- Hamilton-Hodgson House on Milledge Avenue, now a sorority house
- Hamilton-Phinizy-Segrest House on Milledge Avenue, now a sorority house
- Homewood on Dearing Street, a private residence (guided tour by John Barrow)
- Jester House on Cobb Street, now a private residence
- Lumpkin-Mell House, originally stood on corner of Milledge Avenue and Rutherford Street, demolished in the 1960s
- E.K. Lumpkin House on Prince Avenue, site of the organizational meeting of the first ladies' garden club in 1892, now part of the Young Harris United Methodist Church complex
- Michael Brothers' Mansions, originally stood on Prince Avenue between the UGA President's Home and the Taylor-Grady House, demolished in 1960s.
- Moss Side on Cobb Street, now a private residence of a Moss descendant
- Newton House on Prince Avenue, now a doctors' office
- UGA President's Home on Prince Avenue (tour of house and box gardens)
- Sledge-Cobb-Spalding House on Cobb Street, now a private residence (video tour of downstairs interior)
- Taylor-Grady House on Prince Avenue, restored by Athens Junior League, now available for parties, weddings, etc.
- Thomas-Carithers House on Milledge Avenue, now a sorority house
- Thurmond-Cofer House, demolished in the 1960s
- Treanor House on Lumpkin Street, now owned by the University of Georgia (guided tour by Mrs. Susan Frances Barrow Tate)
- James White, Jr., House on Prince Avenue, now a fraternity house

President's Corner

As my term of office nears its completion, let me say that I have enjoyed being the president of such a great organization. And our vice-president Blair Dorminey has taken us to new venues with his innovative programs this year.

We are looking forward to our fiftieth anniversary in 2009 and we need volunteers and ideas of what we can do for a big celebration of that milestone.

The library in general and the Heritage Room in particular are always in need of our support. Government funding is at a very low point.

Jenny Best, the editor of the *Athens Historian*, has resigned following the publication of the 2007 issue, so we are looking for a new editor. We do appreciate the hard work that Jenny has done on the past three issues, Volumes 10-12.

Our outgoing Board members – Bucky Redwine, Milton Leathers and Natalie Wellman – will be missed at the Board meeting. There's never a dull moment at Board Meetings, so we hope that others will enthusiastically take on their roles.

Come to the party on December 2nd and enjoy yourself in visiting with friends, nibbling great refreshments and touring the T. R. R. Cobb house. We thank Sam Thomas and staff member Shannon Hays of the Cobb house for allowing us the use of the building and for conducting the tours.

I wish you all a special holiday season and a fantastic year for 2008.

Mary Hoit Abbe

| Quantity | Title | Price | Total |
|----------|---|----------------|-------|
| | <i>Presence of the Past: Historic Houses of Athens, Georgia.</i> 23-minute color video (VHS) SPECIAL DISCOUNT for limited time | \$15.00 | |
| | <i>1874 Map of Athens</i> - 36" x 45", sepia and moss green ink on cream stock. Requires \$5.00 extra shipping | \$15.00 | |
| | <i>Papers of the Athens Historical Society</i> , Vol. I (1964, 2007 reprint) *NEW* | \$10.00 | |
| | <i>Papers of the Athens Historical Society</i> , Vol. II (1979) | \$10.00 | |
| | Limited time SPECIAL! Set of AHS Papers, Vol. I reprint and Vol. II | \$15.00 | |
| | <i>Athens-Clarke County Cemeteries</i> (does not include Oconee Hill) | \$30.00 | |
| | <i>Athens Historian</i> , Vol. 1, October 1996 | \$5.00 | |
| | <i>Athens Historian</i> , Vol. 2, October 1997 | \$5.00 | |
| | <i>Athens Historian</i> , Vol. 3, October 1998 | \$5.00 | |
| | <i>Athens Historian</i> , Vol. 4, October 1999 | \$5.00 | |
| | <i>Athens Historian</i> , Vol. 5, October 2000, with 5-year topical index | \$5.00 | |
| | <i>Athens Historian</i> , Vol. 6, Fall 2001, with index | \$5.00 | |
| | <i>Athens Historian</i> , Vol. 7, Fall 2002, with index | \$5.00 | |
| | <i>Athens Historian</i> , Vol. 8, Fall 2003, with index | \$5.00 | |
| | <i>Athens Historian</i> , Vol. 9, Fall 2004, with index | \$5.00 | |
| | <i>Athens Historian</i> , Vol. 10, Fall 2005, with index | \$5.00 | |
| | <i>Athens Historian</i> , Vol. 11, Fall 2006, with index | \$5.00 | |
| | <i>Athens Historian</i> , Vol. 12, Fall 2007, with index (due in December) | \$5.00 | |
| | <i>Athens Historian - all twelve volumes</i> | \$50.00 | |
| | <i>A Postcard History of Athens, Georgia</i> by Gary Doster | \$30.00 | |

SHIPPING & HANDLING - add \$3.00 per book/video/set, \$5.00 for map

SUBTOTAL

AHS Membership(s) – see the box below for membership levels

Why not give an AHS membership to your favorite history buffs?

TOTAL OF ORDER - Make check payable to Athens Historical Society

Please put your name & address in the box below so we'll know where to ship the items. If you wish us to ship them to someone on your gift list, provide name & address & the items to be shipped on a separate sheet.

Thank you for supporting your Society with your order & your membership!

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 calendar year*)

_____ Individual - \$10.00 _____

_____ Family - \$15.00 _____

_____ Supporting - \$35.00 _____

Patron - \$50.00

Business - \$100.00

Please accept my tax-deductible contribution
 of \$_____ to help fund AHS special projects

***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!***

Newsletter

OF THE ATHENS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ATHENS, GA
PERMIT No. 208

Don't forget to renew your dues for 2008! If your mail label has 2008 above your name, your dues are paid.

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

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

January 20, 2008 – A Trip to “The Bottom”
Rev. Charles Knox, Jr.

AHS Website & Information

www.rootsweb/~gaahs
email: ebmayes@windstream.net
or athens_historical_society@yahoo.com

UPCOMING PROJECTS

- 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. 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.
- The Heritage Room at the Athens-Clarke County Library would like copies of photographs of Athens – buildings, people, events. These pictures do not have to be old. We are rapidly losing the landscape from past, even from the 1960s and 1970s. See what you have at home and we will make plans to copy it at future meetings, or we can come to your home to make scanned copies. Contact Mary Anne Abbe at mhabbe@aol.com or by phone (706) 354-8107 to arrange an appointment.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – The 2008 nominating committee, Natalie Wellman, chair, Nelle Price Epps and Wilson Elder, may be calling on you to get involved with the behind-the-scenes operations of our society. We hope you will make your special skills and knowledge available as we prepare to celebrate our 50th anniversary in 2009.