

This view of Chicopee and the covered bridge over the Oconee River at the foot of Broad Street was taken in the early 1900s by Dr. David Lewis Earnest. Courtesy of Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library / University of Georgia Libraries.

Chicopee and the Cook & Brother Armory

Andrew Clyde, Clyde Armory

Sunday, October 16, 2011

3:00 p.m., SBDC Auditorium

Room 2002, Chicopee Complex

1180 East Broad Street, Athens

(use the entrance near the historical marker)

At the beginning of the Civil War, Ferdinand W.C. Cook and his brother Francis operated *Cook and Brother Armory*, a small armory near New Orleans, with a contract to manufacture Enfield rifles for the Confederacy. When Union forces threatened that city in March 1862, they escaped by loading a steamboat with as much armory equipment as it would carry, along with a supply of iron and steel, and fled to Vicksburg, Mississippi. They eventually made their way to Athens where they purchased property on the Oconee River. A classic building with symmetrical fenestration with a central stair tower and rock-coursed first story and brick second was speedily built in the summer and fall of 1862 to house the operation. Production ceased in the summer of 1864 when the Confederate government failed to reimburse the Armory for its expenses, and the labor force was organized as the 23rd Battalion, Georgia Volunteers, called into service by Governor Brown.

The meeting is free and open to the public.

NOTE: there are stairs to reach this meeting - no handicap access available

Gary and Emily Jean Doster will be available to sign copies of their new books before and after the meeting.

The property stood empty until 1870 when it was acquired by the Athens Manufacturing Company for \$18,000, a fraction of its value. Converted into a weaving mill for the Athens Factory, it was known as the *Check Mill* for many years from the weaving design of its popular cloth. Later the building became part of the textile manufacturing complex known as the *Chicopee Mill*. These buildings were deeded to the University of Georgia by Johnson & Johnson in the mid-1980s. Most of the complex is now devoted to physical plant operations of UGA, but the armory building now houses the Small Business Development Center. ¹

About our speaker, Andrew Clyde: A native of Ontario, Canada, Clyde grew up in Indiana, has 24 years of active and reserve service, and taught at the U.S. Navy Supply Corps School in Athens in 1994. He moved back here after leaving active duty in 1996 and earned his master's degree from the University of Georgia Terry College of Business in 1999. He designed the new building for Clyde Armory as a replica of *Chicopee*.

Andy will talk about the Cook brothers themselves and about his search to find out what happened to the surviving Cook brother, Francis, and to the widow of Ferdinand W.C. Cook. He says, "It seems Clyde Armory has become the repository for all things Cook & Brother and I kind of like that idea." ²

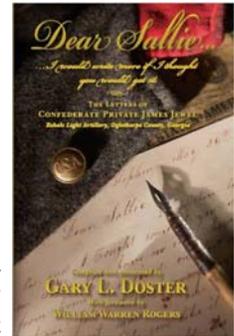
Cook & Brother Armory

Inscription from the historical marker at the *Chicopee Bldg.*

To this building in 1862 was brought the machinery of the armory established in New Orleans at the outbreak of the War by Ferdinand W.C. and Francis L. Cook, recent English immigrants, the former a skilled engineer for the manufacture of Enfield rifles, bayonets and cavalry horse shoes. Said to be the largest and most efficient private armory in the Confederacy. It produced a rifle declared by an ordnance officer to be "superior to any that I have seen of Southern manufacture." Under contract to supply 30,000 rifles to the Confederate Army the armory operated until its employees, organized as a reserve battalion under Major Ferdinand and Captain Francis Cook, were in 1864 called to active duty upon the approach of Sherman's army. The battalion took part in the battles of Griswoldville, Grahamville, Honey Hill and Savannah where Major Cook was killed. After Grisoldville Gen. P.J. Phillips reported that Maj. Cook and his men "participated fully in the action, deported themselves gallantly and suffered much from wounds and death." Leased by the Confederacy in 1865 the armory was operated until the close of the War. The property was bought by the Athens Manufacturing Co. in 1870.

Two new books from AHS member Gary Doster

DEAR SALLIE ...
... I would write more if I thought you would get it.
The Letters of Confederate Private James Jewel,
Echols Light Artillery, Oglethorpe County, Georgia

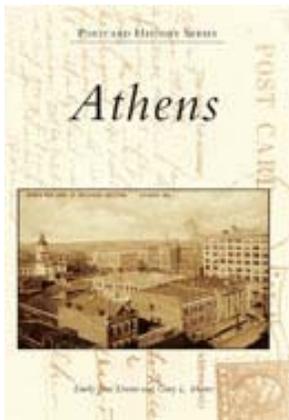


A rare find of 114 letters written by Confederate private James Jewel to his younger sister Sarah Rebecca “Sallie” Jewel give a poignant picture of life for the ordinary foot soldier and the deprivations suffered by his family back home in Oglethorpe County. This unit served briefly in the Atlanta area before being sent to guard the critical salt works of the Florida Gulf coast.

The 360-page soft-bound book contains extensive genealogical information of the allied families, 6 maps, 4 photos and an index. It will be available at the meeting on Sunday, or order from Angle Valley Press at <http://anglevalleypress.com> online. The price is \$24.95 postpaid.



A new Athens picture postcard book



Athens

Postcard collector Gary L. Doster and his granddaughter, Emily Jean Doster, recently published a new book that offers a picture window to Athens’ past and includes several historic images never before published. The newly released publication is part of South Carolina-based Arcadia Publishing’s series of soft-cover books capturing a town’s historic scenes through old picture postcards. It offers 224 black-and-white images and accompanying text in 128 pages that showcase some of Gary Doster’s personal collection of postcards that show Athens from the early 1900s to the 1940s. Gary has amassed more than 10,000 early Georgia picture postcards and his collection is considered to be the largest in existence.

Doster and his granddaughter have divided their book into seven themed chapters, each highlighting a different aspect of Athens. The chapters cover downtown Athens; the UGA campus; schools and churches; the U.S. Navy pre-flight school; private residences; business and industry; and bridges, trains and airplanes.

History buffs will be thrilled to learn that *Athens* includes 42 historic picture postcards that have not appeared in any other picture books about the city. “They are cards I either did not have room for in previous

books I’ve published, or I have acquired them since my previous book (*A Postcard History of Athens, Georgia*, 2002) came out about 10 years ago,” Doster said.

Among the “fresh” picture postcard images are the Model and Training School founded in 1903 by Julia C. Jackson Harris for black students and of her home across the road from the school. The school was built off Danielsville Road on property Harris donated and was made up of a three-room school building and a two-room home economics facility.

Other previously unpublished images include real-photo postcards of a Confederate veterans parade in downtown Athens in 1909; Whitehall Mansion; and a 1917 portrait of Addie B. Starks, who was a cook for UGA Chancellor David C. Barrow Jr. and the mother of Ples “Clegg” Starks (1903-1964), the famous water boy for the UGA football team under 12 head coaches. An entire chapter is devoted to the U.S. Navy preflight school based on the UGA campus during World War II, and the 23 photo images provide a realistic glimpse of the rigorous training and life the Navy pilots undertook.³

Athens is priced at \$21.99 and is available at local retailers, online bookstores or through Arcadia Publishing at www.arcadiapublishing.com or (888) 313-2665.

About the authors: *Gary Doster*, a native of Athens, Georgia, is the author of *From Abbeville to Zebulon*, *Early Post Card Views of Georgia* and eight other books on Georgia history, including his gift to AHS, *A Post Card History of Athens, Georgia*. He is a certified wildlife biologist and has worked for the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study at the University of Georgia since 1965. Gary has a lifelong interest in Georgia history and has ancestors from Oglethorpe County, Georgia, dating back to the 1790s. He is married to the former Faye Ann Thomas of Oconee County, Georgia. His co-author, granddaughter **Emily Jean Doster**, is a 2009 graduate of Oconee County High School and is currently studying art at Georgia College in Milledgeville.

From AHS Archives - 1992

The Crampton's Gap Project

Excerpted from minutes by Recording Secretary Evelyn B. Flynt at the Oct. 18, 1992 AHS board meeting



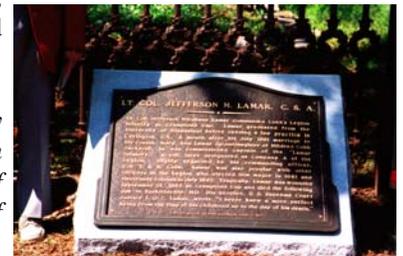
Dedication of the historical marker to Cobb's Brigade, placed by AHS in Gathland State Park, near Burkittsville, Maryland, on Sept. 14, 1992, the 130th anniversary of the Battle of Crampton's Gap in which so many Athens lives were lost.

and Bill Kelly, Toombs Lewis, Charlotte and George Marshall, Margaret Miller, Rufus Paine, Stan Sheram, Virginia Shields, Hazel Simpson, Grace and Bob Stephens, Peggy and Harry Talmadge, Jack Turner, Nellie and Henry Walter of Cataumet, MA, and Alice and Hoyt Whelchel of Moultrie, GA. Former Society members, Mr. and Mrs. H.B. Fant, came from Gaithersburg, MD. The Blanchard Smith family, descendants of Patrick Hues Mell, organizer of Mell Rifles, and relatives of Benjamin Mell, a casualty of the battle, drove over from Alexandria, VA. The Fowlers and Ruth Jackson represented Cody Fowler, who died in the battle. The Erwins, Walters and Whelchels represented John B. Lamar and Jefferson M. Lamar, both of whom died in the battle, and Gen. Howell Cobb, who commanded the Southern troops.

The ceremony was filmed by Classic Video Productions' Stan Sheram. A videocassette of the ceremony included a full introduction to the battle and the project by Dr. Erwin, Mr. Redwine and Mrs. Marshall, and an interview with Timothy J. Reese, historian of Crampton's Gap.

The bus tour, organized by Dr. Goodloe Erwin, also included visits to other Civil War battlefields – Harpers Ferry, Sharpsburg, Gettysburg, Chancellorsville and The Wilderness, a wreath laying ceremony at Rose Hill Cemetery in Hagerstown, MD, where most of the fatalities were reinterred several years after the war. In Fredericksburg, VA, they toured Federal Hill, the girlhood home of Sarah Rootes Cobb, mother of Major John Boswell Cobb, Generals Howell and Thomas Reade Rootes Cobb, and Laura Cobb Rutherford.

The Society also erected a marker to Lt. Col. Jefferson Mirabeau Lamar in Oconee Hill Cemetery in 1993, and one to Col. John Basil Lamar near his grave in Rose Hill Cemetery in Macon, GA in 1994. Howell Cobb's wife Mary Ann Lamar Cobb was the sister of John Basil Lamar and cousin of Jefferson Mirabeau Lamar. These names have been used many times in subsequent generations of the family.



Thanks to your generosity, two historical markers detailing the Battle of Crampton's Gap were dedicated at Maryland's Gathland State Park on September 14, 1992, the 130th anniversary of the battle. Dr. Goodloe Erwin presided over the impressive late afternoon ceremony, which was scheduled to coincide with the hour of the battle.

The occasion began with a local reenactment color guard marching into the field to the stirring music of a drum and fife corps. Speakers included Dr. Nellie Rucker Walter [great-granddaughter of Gen. Howell Cobb], Patrick J. Griffin III, G. Eliot Cummings, Timothy J. Reese, Dr. Kenneth Coleman, and Hon. Robert G. Stephens, Jr. Beth M. Abney, representing Laura Rutherford Chapter 88, United Daughters of the Confederacy, and Toombs DuBose Lewis, Jr., representing Brigadier General T.R.R. Cobb Camp 97, Sons of Confederate Veterans, laid wreaths at the markers. The program concluded with *Taps* and a rifle salute. Arrangements with local SVC camps were made by Morgan R. Redwine, Jr.

The ceremony was attended by a large group of citizens from the Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland area, in addition to 33 Athens Historical Society members and friends who traveled by charter bus: Patricia and Goodloe Erwin, Beth Abney, Bill Brown, Mr. and Mrs. John Lamar Callaway of Covington, GA, Kenneth Coleman, Grace and Joe Collier, Estelle and James Farmer, Evelyn and Max Flynt, Ann and Hugh Fowler, Evelyn and Tom Glenn, Ruth Fowler Jackson, Winnie

¹ "Cook and Brother Armory serves as a reminder of Confederate effort in Athens" by Marion J. Rice, Athens Banner-Herald, Sept. 4, 2001.
http://onlineathens.com/stories/090501/ath_cook.shtml

² "Gun dealer finds inspiration for new building in historical armory" by Chris Starrs, Athens Banner-Herald, May 23, 2010.
http://onlineathens.com/stories/052310/bus_643122235.shtml

³ Excerpted with permission from "Glimpses of Athens' past in postcards" by Don Nelson, published in the Athens Banner-Herald, Sept. 8, 2011.
http://www.onlineathens.com/stories/090811/new_882679607.shtml

Newsletter

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Upcoming AHS Meeting Dates

October 16, 2011

The Cook & Brother Armory

Andrew Clyde
Chicopee Bldg., SBDC Auditorium

January 15, 2012

2:30 p.m. – AHS business meeting

Georgia Bellflowers: The Furniture of Henry Eugene Thomas

Ashley Callahan
Georgia Museum of Art Auditorium
*reception & tour of the
GMOA exhibition will follow the program*

AHS Website & Information

www.rootsweb.com/~gaahs/
Athens Historical Society on Facebook
email: ebmayes@windstream.net

Items of interest

ATHENS LIBRARY UNDERGOING RENOVATION

The Athens-Clarke County Library has begun a renovation and addition project which is scheduled to take 20 months. The Heritage Room closed August 1, so that it can be renovated and reconfigured to be a more usable space in the future. A small, basic collection remains available in the Reference Department of the library. In addition, staff members are still available by email heritageroom@arlsmail.org, phone (706) 613-3650 or in person to assist researchers.

HARGRETT RARE BOOK AND MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY and other special collections will move from the UGA Main Library to the new Special Collections Libraries Building later this fall. The new building is currently under construction at 300 Hull Street, off of Lumpkin Street. Many materials in Hargrett collections will not be available from October through December 2011. Check the Hargrett website at www.libs.uga.edu/hargrett/ for details on collection closings. The Special Collections Library building plans to be open to the public in January 2012.

LUNCH AND LEARN at the Georgia Archives

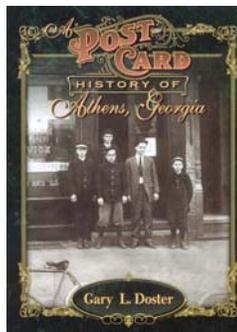
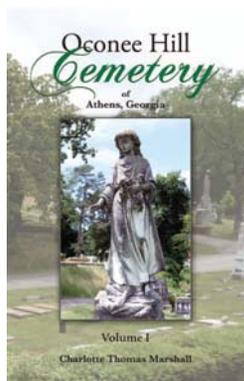
Amanda Mros, Archivist, and Anne Smith, Assistant Director, will present *Your Home's Family Tree* at the Georgia Archives on Friday, Oct. 14, from noon-1 p.m. – admission is free. Learn about resources to help you trace the history of a building or property. The Georgia Archives is located at 5800 Jonesboro Road, Morrow.

FREE WEBINARS COMING SOON

The Georgia Genealogical Society will begin offering free webinars in September. The online seminars will allow registrants to participate in educational sessions from the comfort of their homes. Webinars will be offered the third Monday of each month at 8 p.m. Eastern time. Topics and details are being developed. Check the GGS Web site at www.gagensociety.org for details. From *The Scribe*, newsletter of the Georgia Genealogical Society, September 2011 issue.

AHS Publications make great gifts!

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~gaahs



Do you have these books on your bookshelf?

Quantity	Title	Price	Total
	<i>Oconee Hill Cemetery of Athens, Georgia, Volume I</i> (2010 reprint) by Charlotte Thomas Marshall ** also available at ADD Drugs and Appointments at Five in Five Points, Athens Welcome Center, Aurum Studios downtown **	\$55.00	
	<i>A Postcard History of Athens, Georgia</i> by Gary Doster ** also available at the Athens Welcome Center downtown **	\$30.00	
	<i>Papers of the Athens Historical Society, Vol. I</i> (1964, 2007 reprint)	\$10.00	
	<i>Papers of the Athens Historical Society, Vol. II</i> (1979)	\$10.00	
	<i>Athens-Clarke County Cemeteries</i> (limited quantity available)	\$30.00	
SHIPPING & HANDLING - Please add \$7.00 for 1 book, \$8.00 for 2 books, \$9.00 for 3 or more			
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