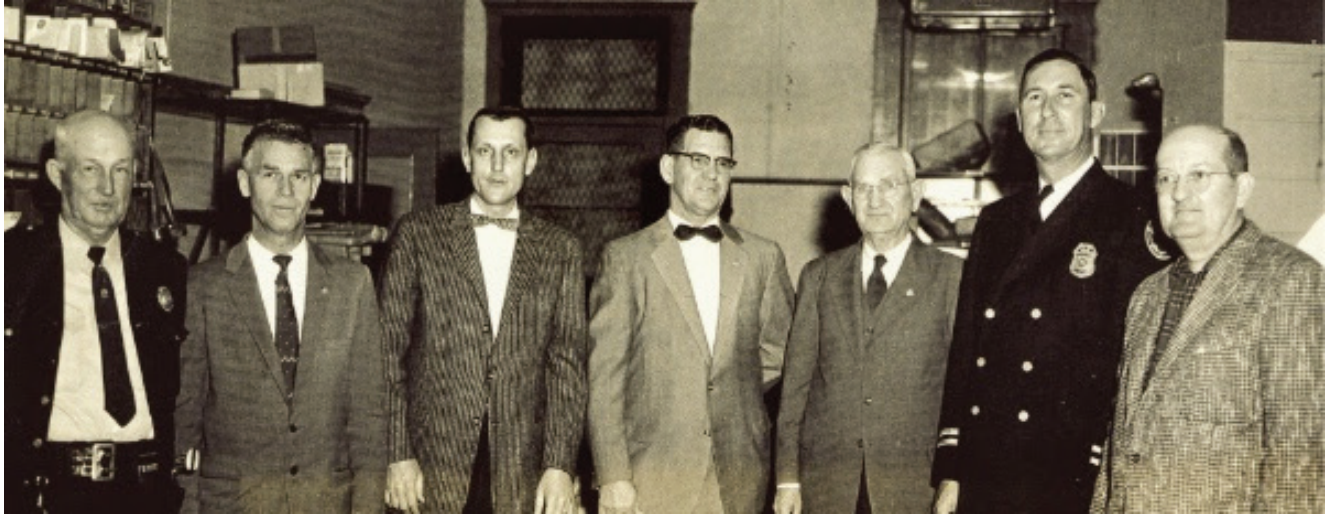


SMHS Newsletter, No. 1, 2016



Stone Mountain Historic Society Newsletter January 2016

Greetings

We extend a huge thanks to the Smokerise Morning Glories Garden Club for once again their incredibly festive Christmas decorations at the Wells Brown House. Each year this group artfully decorates the house with natural greenery which complements the 1870s house and its furnishings. Jenny Hall Busch helped out marshaling food and drinks at our Christmas party which had a Mexican theme honoring the Cervantes Family, previous owners of our headquarters. Dr. George Coletti signed copies of his new book, *The Red Spoke* for guests. Finally, it was a soft opening for our new exhibit, *The Doctor Is In: Healthcare in Stone Mountain*. A good time was had by all. Finally, we extend a very sincere thank you to all of you for your continued support through your membership renewals and generous end-of-the-year donations. Memberships help fuel our mission to preserve the village's history.

2015 was flat out a banner year for the Society. We are the new owners of the Marks lot and met our goal to pay off the loan in one year. A huge thank you to everybody who donated to allow us to meet that goal. We owe a big debt of gratitude to Lynne and Hilda Wells for sponsoring spaghetti dinners on our behalf. Plan on joining us for planning meetings later this year to start planning for our future use of the property.

We launched our first exhibit "The Doctor Is In" in collaboration with Georgia State University's Public History graduate

2016 Officers and Board



Mary Beth Reed, President
Kathryn Wright, Membership
Theresa Hamby, Secretary and Treasurer
Rusty Hamby, House Manager
Susan Devine, Keeper of the Gardens

At Large Board Members:

Chakira Johnson
Frank Luton
Jim McCurdy
Naomi Thompson

Wells-Brown House Committee:

Rusty Hamby, Chairman
Ann Hamby, House
Jim McCurdy, House
Kathryn Wright, House

students and started our medical artifact collection (see below). The exhibit opened in December at our Christmas party and we have opened the building up on Saturday afternoons for the public and invited members of the village's first families of medicine to join us to take in the exhibit and give us ideas on how to "grow" it.

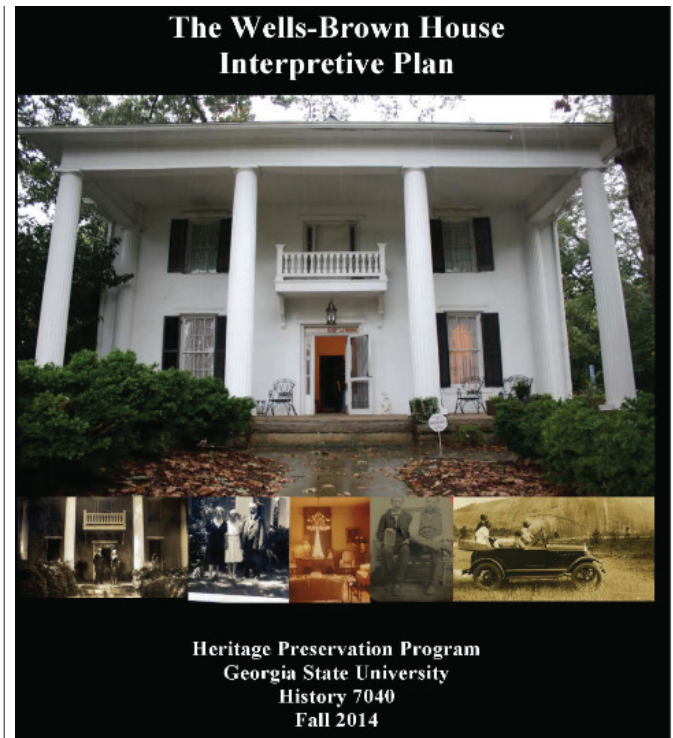
Sammy Wade gave a great Remember When program, sharing his memories about growing up in Stone Mountain. We hope to have at least one more program like this in 2016.

We lost three board members last year. A tribute to JoAnn Florence is below. Sally Kellogg has found new digs in Virginia close to family and we wish her the best. Pat Miller who has been a stalwart member over the years has also moved and is unable to serve this year due to distance. She has assured me she will continue her support regardless. Each brought their respective talents and expertise to our Board and they will be missed. If you are interested in serving on our board, let one of the board members, cited to the right, know or contact us at stonemtnhistoricsociety@gmail.com.

After participating in a wonderful event at the Rock Gym last October honoring Coaches Rainey and Wooten, the Board decided to schedule our annual Rock Gym event in October rather than February to ensure a good turnout and hopefully temperate weather. Anybody in the audience that night who didn't grow up in Stone Mountain, was envious of the fortunate folks who were lucky enough to come from here and in particular to play basketball at Stone Mountain High School. We will fill you in later this year on our event planning but please count on a great event in October in arguably the most beloved building in town!

Check Out Our New Website Design

Our first step in 2016 is to unveil our new website design. We have the same address but a new look. Naomi Thompson gave us our first identity on the internet and served as our webmaster for several years for which we owe her our thanks. This year we were able to enlist volunteer Nick Joseph in redesigning and adding some more pages particularly for a photo gallery. We hope to start putting historic images we have collected on the site in the future. Naomi is



Wells Brown Interpretive Plan

Compiled by the Heritage Preservation Program, Georgia State University, Issues and Interpretations of Public History Class: Marcy Breffle, Nathan Brown, Joshua Curtis, Lisa Flaherty, Laurel Lamb, Courtney Nix, Raul Pino, Julie Renner, Alexandra Troxell, Charles Turner, and Megan Warley under the direction of Dr. Kathryn Wilson, Fall 2014. Copies available on request.



SAVE THE DATE

ART AND PANCAKES

WELLS BROWN FRONT LAWN AND PORCH

APRIL 16th

stepping down as webmaster and Chakira Johnson has volunteered to be our next webmaster. Please let us know what you think of our new look:

<http://www.stonemountainhistoricsociety.org>.



Exhibit- The Doctor Is In: Healthcare in Stone Mountain

Sixteen-year old James A. Pritchett of Stone Mountain (above right), son of farmers Anna and W.J Pritchett, won the national 4-H contest in 1948 for being the "healthiest boy in the U.S" The contest was held to highlight the club's 4th H for Health, an important plank in the organization's mission toward youth development. Pritchett's win may have been due to good genes but certainly the mountain environment and healthcare offered by the town doctors played a large role in his good health. See the Society's exhibit on Healthcare in Stone Mountain produced by the Georgia State University Public History class to learn more about the role our town doctors played in keeping the village healthy. The Wells Brown House and the exhibit is open to the public on Saturdays from 2-4 in February and if response is good we may be open in March as well.

"My Town" Series

Late in 2015, our newsletter editor received vignettes in the mail describing people and events in Stone Mountain's past written by Will Manyard. Here is the first in the series, describing Mayor Randolph Medlock, who is the second from the left in the photograph at the top of the newsletter. The 1945 photograph features a number of city luminaries from left to right: Police Chief Charles J. Tucker, Mayor Medlock, Postmaster Robert Holley, Mr. Haynie, Mr. Elliot, DeKalb Chief of Police Brady Knight, and City Clerk Marion Guess.



Creamy, Spicy Potato and Kale Soup with Italian Sausage

Similar to Olive Garden's Zuppa Toscana

Makes 6 servings

1 tablespoon olive oil
1 pound Italian sausage
¼ teaspoon red pepper flakes (or to taste)
3 cloves garlic, minced
1 onion, diced
4 cups chicken broth
3 small russet potatoes, thinly sliced
2 cups kale, finely chopped
1 cup heavy cream
salt and pepper to taste

Add olive oil to a large pot over medium heat.

Brown the sausage until no longer pink.

Add the red pepper flakes, garlic, and onion and cook, stirring often, until the onions are translucent and the garlic is fragrant, about 4 minutes.

Add the chicken broth, potatoes, and kale.

Bring the broth to a simmer, reduce the heat to medium-low, and cook until the potatoes are tender, about 10 minutes.

Remove the soup from the heat, stir in the cream, and season with salt and pepper to taste.

Ladle into soup bowls and serve.

"R was everyone's favorite mayor well, just about every one. He was the kind of mayor one either loved or despised- not many were between. One thing for sure, with R, you always knew where you stood. It was this quality and more that kept R in the Mayor's office for over thirty years. He was actually a full-time mayor on a part-time salary.

Shortly after one of our new neighbors moved into town, she discovered the trash pick-up truck had missed her new house. She knew instinctively that a call to City Hall would eventually resolve the problem. The city clerk answered the phone, listened patiently, expressed sympathy, and passed the information onto the mayor. Imagine our new neighbor's surprise when ten minutes later her trash was collected. Up drove a Chevrolet automobile, out stepped a no nonsense efficient man who threw the trash into the trunk of his automobile. And that's just one example of why my town kept our no nonsense, efficient R as mayor for over 30 years." - Will Manyard

In Honor of JoAnn Tuggle Florence (1938-2015)



2015 took a great toll upon our Society membership and I sadly report we lost another charter member and the treasurer of our Society, JoAnn Florence, in November. JoAnn was a big picture thinker; she was straightforward, positive, and had a wonderful sense of fun. She was first and foremost a true blue member of the Society, keeping

accession records, manning tables at events, and keeping us in the black financially. She was a leader and, although I never played bridge with her, I suspect she was a fierce competitor. As president, I thought of her as a mentor and a friend. I think I can speak for all our board members when I say that we had the good fortune to work with JoAnn and that she will be greatly missed. Our sympathy goes out to Steve and Melanie Florence, her children, and a thank you to the two of them for the gracious donation of her portrait to the Society's collection. It means a great deal to us and we are proud to have JoAnn's portrait in the dining room of the Wells Brown House.

Upcoming Events

Quarterly Meeting: The Tuskegee Airmen, Speaker Zellie Rainey Orr, Sue Kellogg Library, 6:00pm, February 24th. Refreshments served.

We are delighted to have Zellie Rainey Orr to speak about the Tuskegee Airmen on Wednesday February 24th at 6:00 pm at Sue Kellogg Library. Ms. Orr is responsible for such projects as the "Freedom School Bombing" marker (Indianola, MS), the naming of Camp Creek Parkway, "Tuskegee Airmen Parkway." She is also a credited contributor to the Georgia 8th Grade Social Studies Textbook, "Georgia A History of Change And Progress." Ms. Orr, a distinguished World Intellectual by the Biographical Centre of Cambridge, England, is the former National Historian of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. (TAI) and first woman President of the Atlanta Chapter Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.

Her latest reprint of "Heroes In War – Heroes At Home: FIRST TOP GUNS," published in 2012, provides new insight regarding the "Last Hurrah" of the 332nd Fighter Group (a/k/a Tuskegee Airmen). It also exposes a cadre of black aviation pioneers never before depicted. Among these...a recipient of 63 honorary doctorate degrees, another who completed advance pilot training flying with the Chinese. This non-fiction saga, by a black woman whose perseverance (fifty-five years later) unearthed the "missing" 1949 USAF Gunnery Meet (Top Gun) trophy, raises the bar in American history. Her book will be available at the event.