

SMHS Newsletter, No. 2, April 2016



Stone Mountain Historical Society Newsletter

April 2016

Greetings

Lord Grantham had his Isis, Dorothy had Toto, and we all had Old Yeller. Stone Mountain has had, and continues to have, some notable dogs. To mention just a few, an incredible pack of standard poodles that lead their owners through the village on walks, Maggie de Loach who patiently patrols the neighborhood, Beau Snead who sits proudly like an ornament on his proud owner's arms, and Tucker Rhodes, who though small, watches over his back forty with heart. Jim McCurdy has a happy trio of dogs that he chauffeurs between Edisto and Stone Mountain. Tug Tuggle and Sally Kellogg proudly bring their sidekicks to village events. The Colettis found their Star in the cemetery. Taking the world of pets to a new level, the Steffen Thomas Family raised a lion cub in their Stone Mountain home in the 1960s. We are blessed to have AARF, a great neighborhood pet store on James B. Rivers in town, and their porch affords great pet watching. We haven't even started on the cats of Stone Mountain!

When we scanned photographs for the Society's pictorial history of the village, each family had photographs of a beloved pet: a pony, dog, or cat. The photograph above from



2016 OFFICERS AND BOARD

Mary Beth Reed, President
Kathryn Wright, Membership Chair
Theresa Hamby, Secretary and Treasurer
Rusty Hamby, House Manager

At Large Members

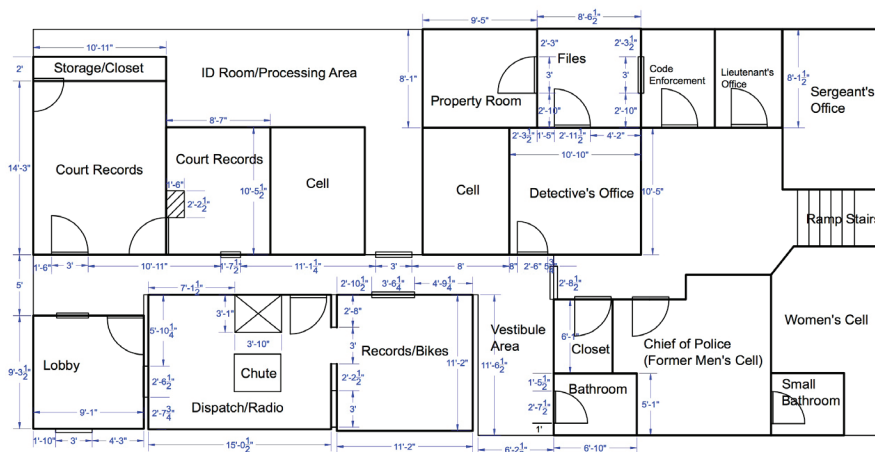
Susan Devine, Keeper of the Grounds
Jim McCurdy, Community Relations
Chakira Johnson, Website Manager
Naomi Thompson, Park Liaison

the collection of Peggy Mills was a favorite that shows an adorable toddler with her family yard dog around the turn of the twentieth century, both beautifully behaved for the photographer, and very comfortable with each other. Sammy Wade showed us with delight, photographs of “Gas” Venable doing tricks, as well as standing in front of the carving studio that used to sit at the base of the mountain. He also told us about a mean neighborhood monkey that used to get after kids (a story for another day!). Arguably, one of the favorites of the 175th anniversary banners was dedicated to “Red Dog,” a village dog, who would look both ways before crossing the street and who ran for mayor.

A few individuals questioned why we scanned “pet photos” because they didn’t record a historic moment. A long time dog lover, I liked them for their art and honesty but as a historian, I also felt they provided insight into the owners, their life ways, and how we as a culture treat animals. It may not be BIG history but it is an important under layer. For example, historic photographs of the Wells house show a large black dog resided there. Being in the house today with its antique furniture and exhibits, you sometimes lose sight of what made it a home. The Wells were dog owners and that burly unnamed dog flopped on their steps is part of the history of their home. Knowing this provides a connection to them that helps bring the building alive.

Depot Update

We learned early in the year that we are under serious consideration for a Community Block Development Grant for the one phase of the Depot’s renovation that would provide funding for an ADA accessible restroom, address drainage issues, and allow us to construct a much needed platform on the 1857 end of the building to allow ADA access. Prior to this work, a group of New South historians documented the 1857 (south) end of the depot that used to house the police station and jail. First a passenger and freight depot, then just a freight room after 1914, this part of the building was transformed into a police station and jail in the 1960s by our own police force. The chief and his men spent many volunteer hours creating a space that served the city as a police station and jail for over four decades.



Stone Mountain Police Station/Jail

Not to Scale

Made Date
2/2/2016

GRANITE SENTINELS

RED DOG

MUCH LOVED TOWN DOG THAT LOOKED
BOTH WAYS BEFORE CROSSING THE STREET AND
RAN FOR MAYOR
1990-2012

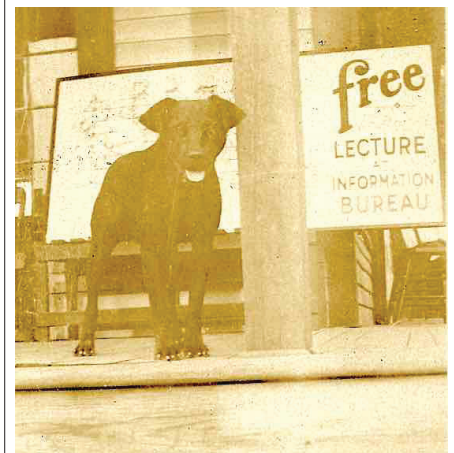


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Red Dog's Banner



Sally Kellogg, Tug Tuggle, Lily and Parker, 2015



“Gas” Venable

The historians created a floor plan and photographed the interior and were delighted to find that Jim Tavenner, now head of Public Works, was once on the force, and he was able to provide a terrific amount of information about the building and its uses. Smart phones used as recorders saved the day. Jim's words were taped and will be transcribed so we can better interpret the building in this era as we move forward on the renovation.

Events - Come Join Us!

Pancake Breakfast at the Wells Brown House, April 16th Saturday from 8:30-11:30AM. Adults \$10, Children \$5. Rusty is cooking up some delicious hotcakes and sausage! Bring the family and help the society grow.

Tuskegee Airmen Presentation Rescheduled, Wednesday, April 20th, 6:00PM, Sue Kellogg Library. Refreshments Served. Free and open to the public.

Archaeology Field Day in the Village, Saturday May 7th, 10-2, New South Associates, 6150 East Ponce de Leon Avenue, Stone Mountain. Free and open to the public.



Mozzarella and Celery Salad

A fresh update on Caprese salad...

2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
2 teaspoons of Dijon mustard
1/4 teaspoon of kosher salt
3 tablespoons of extra virgin olive oil
2 cups of celery, thinly sliced on the bias, with some leaves
1 lb. of fresh mozzarella cubed
1/2 cup of walnuts, toasted and coarsely chopped

In a serving bowl, whisk together the lemon juice, mustard, and salt. Then slowly whisk in the olive oil to make a smooth dressing. Add the celery, mozzarella, and walnuts. Toss well with the dressing and serve.

Source: From Lidia's Kitchen in Fine Gardening



**Join Us
For A
Short Stack
For A Good
Cause!**

APRIL 16th



Planning a Small Event?

The Wells Brown House and grounds are beautiful in all seasons and are available for small gatherings. It is a perfect setting for an intimate wedding, bridal or baby shower, or meeting and we are happy to work with you to make sure your event is a success. If you are interested, please call Rusty Hamby at 404-771-4406.