

# Stone Mountain Historical Society Newsletter

## November 2017



### ***Greetings***

We thank Kevin Wood for the photograph above showing the Dinkey arriving at the Depot ca. 1920. Barron's Restoration's roofline is evident in the background to the right. Makes you realize how autocentric Main Street is today as opposed to when the car shared the road with the trolley and train lines!

2017 is winding down and it has been a good one. The Society began its 1871 Club to help fund repairs to the Wells Brown House and the fund has allowed us to make significant repairs and to start planning others needed next year. We are grateful for all who participate. We have had three major presentations including Patrick Sullivan's talk on the historical connections between the granite industry and the history of soccer in Georgia; Pam DeVore's presentation on the survey and the online database of the mountain petroglyphs (<http://pamenlow.gsucreate.org/PetroglyphsPath/>), and a report by Scott Talbert with Inner Light Paranormal Investigations on paranormal activity in the Wells Brown House. Scott's talk last week made it clear that the Wells Brown House has several spirits and likely gave Kathryn Wright new material for her famous tours of the Wells Brown House. It was an interesting presentation with a different perspective on the house we know so well.

We also started our monthly Cheers get together on the Wells Brown porch this year. This lively event has garnered



### **2018 OFFICERS AND BOARD**

Mary Beth Reed, President  
Kathryn Wright, House Manager  
Theresa Hamby, Secretary  
Melanie Florence, Treasurer

### **At Large Members**

Pat Boudreau  
Susan Devine  
Rusty Hamby  
Chakira Johnson  
Frank Luton  
Jim McCurdy  
Naomi Thompson

new members, great stories (Remember Boll Weevil?), and affirmed the power of the Southern porch! Our last Cheers occurred in October and we will host them in the new year starting in January.

Planning has begun for our first Society excursion to the Rialto Theatre in February for a Sunday afternoon Tribute Concert to Johnny Mercer followed by a convivial dinner at the Colonnade Restaurant on Sunday, Feb. 11, 2018. Trumpeter Joe Gransden and vocalist Francine Reed will present the music of the great American songwriter and Georgia's native son. It should be a great outing and we recommend you reserve your tickets now! See details to the right.

Keep an eye out for your invitation to the Christmas Party on Saturday, December 9th at 7:00-9:00 pm. We will once again celebrate the Cervantes Years at the Wells Brown House at Christmas with Mexican food and music. The card features a beautiful metal mask that was given to the McCurdy Family by the Cervantes who were importers of Mexican arts and crafts from Oaxaca. The Jordan Stokes Brown Family gifted the Wells Brown House to the Society in 2005 in honor of Josephine Brown Cervantes and her sister Grace Brown Harris, and we enjoy honoring their generosity at Christmas time.

Check out the events below as we put together of events for the first half of next year. Donna Baron will talk about her father Roy Faulkner, and his role bringing the carving to completion and we are putting together a Member's Only event in March/April that will feature a retrospective on Mayor Randolph Medlock, his life and his service to the city.

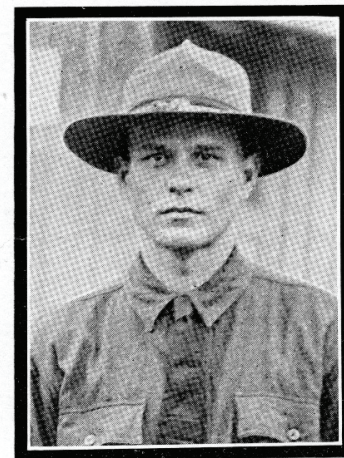
We invite the membership to contribute information about historic Stone Mountain – houses, families and events - from your own knowledge or research for posting in our newsletter. Please email [stonemtnhistoricsociety@gmail.com](mailto:stonemtnhistoricsociety@gmail.com)

or call Mary Beth Reed 770-498-4155 ext. 128. We look forward to hearing from you.

Finally, each member will receive a complimentary calendar filled with historical Stone Mountain photographs in appreciation for your continued support. Please don't forget to renew your membership in the Society and the 1871 Club when you receive your renewal notice. You can also download a form on our website at <https://stonemountainhistoricsociety.org>.

## New to our Collection

We have received a nice collection of Stone Mountain High School Pirates football memorabilia from Doug Roberts including a football



PRIVATE ROY MITCHELL  
Stone Mountain, Ga.

Private Mitchell entered the service July 16th, 1918. He was attached to the General Hospital, Medical Department, Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Private Mitchell contracted pneumonia while he was visiting his home on a furlough, and died at Stone Mountain, Georgia (date of death not known).

## Stone Mountain World War I Research Project -

It is our intention to launch a research initiative for the centennial celebration and we are asking membership families and community members to help us in this endeavor. If you are interested in joining the research effort, know someone on the list ( see website), have a photograph, or just want to see how this develops, please contact Mary Beth Reed at [mbreed@newsouthassoc.com](mailto:mbreed@newsouthassoc.com)

## Events - Come Join Us!



## Front Porch Get Together

at the Wells Brown House, January  
26, 4:00-6:00 pm.



charm, photographs, booklets and clippings, letterman jacket patches, a plaque, and trophy given to him as Stone Mountain High School's Most Valuable Player in 1957. Mr. Roberts played basketball, football, and track in High School during an era of championships and his great football memorabilia compliments the basketball artifacts we have in our collection.



Time Out  
for Coke!

Donated brochure showing Rosters of Stone Mountain High vs. Rockdale Players plus Chart with Referee Signals Explained.

## The King House and the University School for Boys Research Notes

Trying to identify the early hotels in Stone Mountain is a difficult proposition but it became a crusade for me when newspaper reports and census information suggested that a hotel was operating on the University School for Boys property in the early twentieth century. Hotels and schools together? This is where research has lead me so far.

The Atlanta Constitution reports that an unfinished brick hotel in Stone Mountain was up for sheriff's sale in 1869 and the principals involved were J.T. Willingham and A.A. Dyer. A sale must have occurred and the building completed within a year because a brick summer resort hotel was established on the property. Known first as the Stone Mountain Hotel then the King House it was initially operated by Colonel J.J. Morrison, E.T. White and his wife, and J.T. Meador. The Whites were also proprietors of the National House, a hotel in downtown Atlanta. It appears they made their home in Atlanta and let others run the King House until the mid 1880s.

The Stone Mountain hotel was ultimately not successful. The property "the King house and its 4 acre block" was put on the market in 1875. The ad described it thus: "As an eating house it has many advantages. It could be used as a building for a first class seminary or high school. The building is commodious and well built of bricks and doubtless a great bargain will be had by purchaser." The timing of the sale is key as the City of Stone Mountain had put in a proposal

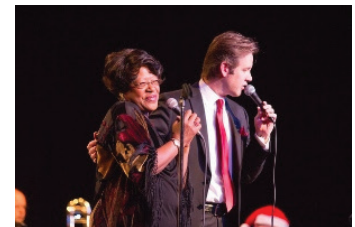


Roy Faulkner's Legacy In Stone

### *Presentation by Donna Barron*

January 25,  
7:00 pm,  
Wells Brown House

Refreshments Served



## **SOCIETY OUTING**

**Johnny Mercer Tribute Concert,  
Sunday, February 11, 2018, Rialto  
Theater, 80 Forsyth St SW**

Followed by Dinner at the Colonnade,  
1879 Cheshire Bridge Road NE

1:30 pm: Depart from the Wells Brown  
House

(meet, carpool, and caravan to  
downtown Atlanta)

3:00 pm: Concert

Dinner at the Colonnade (price not  
included in ticket, order from menu)

**Ordering your tickets...**As part of  
a group sale for the Mercer concert,  
our tickets are in the orchestra and  
(assuming we have 10 or more) are  
\$40.80 (regularly \$48).

to have the Female Baptist Seminary located in the village. While the scope of the project – snagging a seminary (not quite Amazon in scale)- might appear to be small potatoes, it was a big deal in Georgia in 1875 with many cities vying for the honor. Stone Mountain offered “grounds and buildings worth twenty to thirty thousand dollars. Claimed centrality, morality, and a most desirable locality.” Considered a strong contender initially, Stone Mountain heard from the selection committee in 1876 that their offer was not successful. The hotel’s furnishings belonging to White – beds, bedsteads, cooking ware and office furniture - were sold on the courthouse steps in 1884.

Press on the property is scant until the University School for Boys’ advertisements for fall of 1900 announced that it was opening its doors. Clearly the property’s advantages touted during the Seminary offer for a school property had caught the eye of W.B. Griffin, the educator and headmaster who would develop the preparatory school and lead it until 1908. The 1900 Federal Population census only lists one hotel operation in the village. The enumeration occurred on June 29 before the fall semester . The hotel is not named but it was run by Edith Binder whose husband, Frank, was “Superintendent of the Granite Works.” Twenty-two boarders stayed there under Mrs. Binder’s care. It maybe that the Stone Mountain Granite Company leased or had purchased the old hotel until it was converted into a school or perhaps Professor Griffin may have been hedging his bets as he started developing the school, hoping profits from the hotel could sustain the fledgling school.

A 1907 feature article on the school and education in the village in the Atlanta Constitution notes its beginnings from a summer resort hotel and waxes eloquent on the addition of other buildings to the complex for a gymnasium and dormitories. 1907 was a great year for the village – the granite school was almost completed, a new hotel was under construction on Main Street, and there was talk of a trolley coming to Stone Mountain. It was definitely a boom period with a “united Stone Mountain” backing education to distinguish itself from other Georgia cities. Headmaster W.B. Griffin left the school in 1908 to enter a sanitarium after a physical and mental breakdown and Sandy Beaver rose to prominence in his place. Beaver would run two schools - University School for Boys and Riverside Academy in Gainesville - for the next few years but then he closed the University for Boys. The title to the school property appears to have remained in Beaver’s hands. In 1919, the City tried to buy the property for a high school but eventually it was adapted for use as a sanitarium in the 1920s.

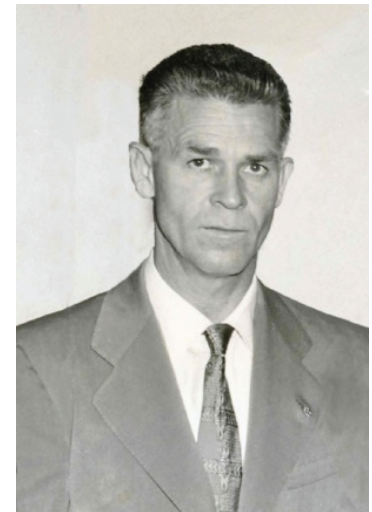
1. Go to <https://events.rialtocenter.org/online/article/mercer> or call the Box Office at 404-413-9849. Enter the Promo Code on the home page in the Promo Code box on the left. (Promo Code: MOUNTAIN)

2. Select the BUY button to the right of the Rialto Series performance our code MOUNTAIN is valid for.

3. Your discounted seats will be a very bright light blue, labeled Special Group Price. Proceed to check out and create an account or log in when prompted.

Our tickets will be held until **DECEMBER 1, 2017. Do not wait until the last minute, as seats are limited.**

If you have any additional questions, the box office staff at the Rialto can be reached at (404) 413-9849.



**March/April  
Stay Tuned**

**Randolph Medlock  
Retrospective**

His Life and his Service

*Panel Discussion and Footage  
from Mayor Medlock's  
Retirement Party*

Member's Event Only

**KING HOUSE,**  
Stone Mountain, Georgia.

**NOW OPEN** for the accommodation of the traveling public. No pains nor expense spared to render guests comfortable. Table supplied with the best the market affords. Attentive waiters. An excellent

**STRING AND BRASS BAND**

Connected with the house. The best, healthiest and most pleasant summer resort in the South; accessible by mail and railroad from all parts of the State. Terms moderate.

may 29-dlm J. J. MORRISON, Proprietor.  
City papers copy to the amount of five dollars and send bill to J. J. M.

## NATIONAL HOTEL,

ATLANTA, GA.

**L**OATED IN THE CENTER OF THE CITY. Only one block from Union passenger depot and the depot of the Georgia Pacific and East Tennessee, Virginia and Georgia railroads, in the same building of the hotel. Terms, \$2.00 per day. E. T. WHITE, Proprietor.

## KING HOUSE,

STONE MOUNTAIN, GEORGIA,

Opened to summer guests on the 1st of May. Cool breezes, good water, only a few minutes ride from the city. Board, \$2.00 per day; \$10 per week; \$30 per month. Address, E. T. WHITE, Atlanta or Stone Mountain, Ga.

### Historical Newspaper Excerpts

G. W. ADAIR, Auctioneer

**DOLLAR SAVINGS BANK**

**PROPERTY.**

**G**REAT SALE AT CITY HALL, first Tuesday, 2d March.

I will sell for the trustees of the bank the 14 lots marked "B" on the plat, at the City Hall, within the legal hours of sale. The property is situated in different parts of the city, but can be found by consulting city map.

Also, that splendid piece of property at Stone Mountain, Georgia, known as the "King House," and four-acre block. This house must be seen and examined to be appreciated. Its locality for health as a summer resort is well known in the South. As an eating house it has many advantages. It could be used as a building for a first class seminary or high school. The building is commodious and well built of brick and doubtless a great bargain will be obtained by the purchaser.

The lot near East Point, ten acres of ground, in the northeast corner of land lot 134, in the 14th district of Fulton county, lying east of the Macon & Western railroad, four miles south of Atlanta, is well adapted for a vegetable farm.

All this property will be sold absolutely for what it will bring. Remember the place and the day and hour, get a plat and select your lot and attend the sale. Terms: one-half cash, balance in three and six months, with 10 per cent. interest.

Also, nine vacant lots on the corner of Fulliam and Richardson streets, as per a separate plat that will be exhibited on the day of sale. Sale absolute. Terms cash. I will furnish a plat to any one who will call at my office for it.

G. W. ADAIR,  
Feb 27 sat-sund-tues Real Estate Agt.



### 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 contact Pat Boudreau, [p.boud@yahoo.com](mailto:p.boud@yahoo.com)