

Stone Mountain Historical Society Newsletter

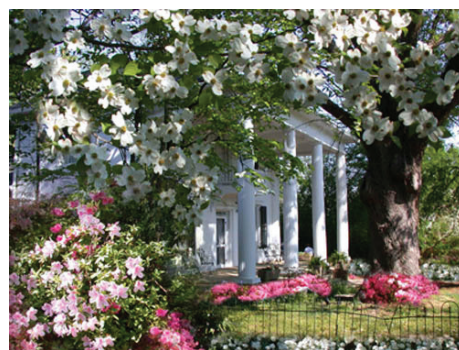
April 2017



Greetings!

We are delighted to report that our membership is growing and that we have found our very own community niche where we tell stories about Stone Mountain and maybe make some new ones! The last Friday of each month we invite you to join us on our elegant and friendly porch from 4-6 pm for drinks, some nibbles, and great conversations. The Society's Board hosts the event that features food and a drink of the month. In April on Friday the 27th we will be celebrating the Masters and Beth Snead suggested a "Tipsy Palmer" might be just the thing. An added bonus is that Kathryn Wright will be giving some impromptu golf lessons on our lawn so wear sturdy shoes and bring your game! It should be fun, come join us.

Check us out at last month's porch party, toasting our Moscow Mules:



2017

OFFICERS AND BOARD

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

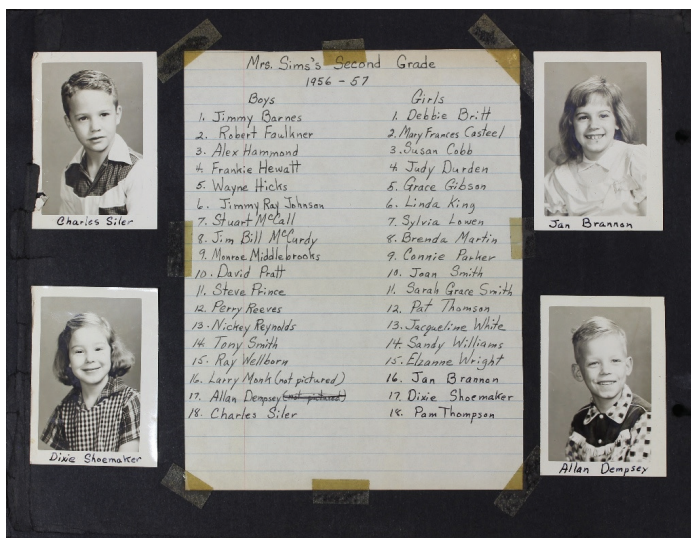
At Large Members

Susan Devine,
Keeper of the Grounds
Jim McCurdy,
Community Relations
Chakira Johnson,
City Liaison
Naomi Thompson,
Website Manager
Frank Luton,
Business Manager

DeKalb County's Early Soccer Players

We are hosting a presentation on Thursday April 27th on the history of soccer in DeKalb County in collaboration with Sue Kellogg Library. Immigrants, many who worked the granite belt early in the twentieth century, were responsible for bringing the sport here. Our featured photo at the top of the page is the 1912 Atlanta Soccer Foot Ball Team. Our speaker, Patrick Sullivan, is an architectural historian with New South Associates in Stone Mountain, Georgia. He received his M.A. in Heritage Preservation from Georgia State University. Patrick has been investigating the history of soccer in Atlanta as a personal research project over the past two years and was interviewed by NPR last month on his research. The presentation will be at the library at 7:00 pm and refreshments will be served.

New Additions to Our Archival Collection



Jim McCurdy has given us a marvelous history of the Masons in Stone Mountain, providing names of the officers and the size of the membership from 1847 onward. We will scan it and make it available on our website or in future newsletters.

We have also completed the scanning of Stone Mountain Elementary School Scrapbooks (1953, 1954, 1956) which we would like to place on our website in the future. The scrapbooks contain class pictures of each student and a list of students and their teacher. See the example above.

We thank Rusty Hamby who was successful in winning a grant from the Order of the Southern Cross that enabled us to buy two handsome display units. We are working on exhibits for each and are excited about the opportunity.

1871 Club

Thanks to all of you that joined. Your generous donations and participation in this important program will allow us to tackle the soffit repair over the porch, helping to keep our beautiful Wells Brown House at its finest. We are getting estimates for the work and will keep you posted.

Events Come Join Us!



Before There Was The Atlanta United....

"The Best in this Section": The DeKalb Granite Industry and Metro Atlanta's Early Soccer History

April 27, 2017, 7 PM

Sue Kellogg Library

952 Leon Street, Stone Mountain

Refreshments Served

The Stone Mountain Historic Society is pleased to host guest speaker, historian Patrick Sullivan, to present the early history of soccer teams in the Atlanta area. The presentation will explore the largely forgotten history of soccer in Atlanta and DeKalb County during the early twentieth century, examine the sport's strong ties with the Lithonia and Stone Mountain branches of the Granite and Paving Cutters' unions, and highlight some of the prominent individuals who promoted and played the game here.

Free and open to the public.



World War I Centennial Story: James and Elmer Clark

In the last newsletter we provided the names of those who served in the Great War that either were natives of Stone Mountain or residents at the time the war broke out. For this edition, we chronicle a pair of brothers, Elmer and James Clark, natives and residents, who served in World War I and whose parents, Josiah and Adelia Clark, had been slaves. The Clarks lived outside the village proper between 1880 and 1900 where they farmed for their livelihood. Over the next decade, they moved into the village residing on Fourth Street closer to the Stone Mountain Granite Company's quarry where Josiah (now Joseph, age 56) worked. Delia, his wife of 34 years and mother of 13, worked as a chambermaid at a local school, probably the University School for Boys. James was 13 in 1910 and his brother Elmer was 16 and both were already workers in the quarries. It is likely that the Clarks were daily riders of the Dinkey until the U.S. decided to enter the War.

James was inducted in Decatur in 1917. The 21 year old was sent overseas as part of Company "D" with the 304th Labor Battalion where he served in France from January 1918 through August of 1919 becoming a Sgt. Mechanic. His brother Elmer joined up in February of 1918 at the age of 24, becoming a Corporal within the 157th Depot Battalion while stationed at Camp Gordon. Elmer was described as single, tall and of medium build on his draft form. No draft form exists for James. While we don't know the particulars beyond that for their individual service, historians have written about the contributions of African Americans to the war effort:

"War is not all "death and glory." For every soldier who gets even a glimpse of the enemy or risks his life within range of shellfire, there must, in all modern warfare, be from twenty to thirty men working at such commonplace and routine tasks as loading and unloading



Cheers on the Porch!

April 28 - Friday 4-6 pm

Join us at the Wells Brown House, where we will be featuring the **Tipsy Palmer** and nibbles! Help us make this another memorable monthly event!

Looking ahead, mark your calendar for the May Cheers on the Porch- **May 26!**



Village Farmer's Market

Starting **April 18**, and every **Tuesday** throughout the season from 4 to 7 PM at the **Depot parking lot**. This producers only market features fresh fruits and vegetables, local honey, goat cheese, locally made soaps and more.



Archaeology Day!

Saturday May 6 - New South Associates, 6150 East Ponce de Leon Ave., **10-2 PM**. Open to the public, pottery, stone tools, basketweaving, the Archaeobus and throwing the atlatl! Come join us.

ships, building piers, laying railroad tracks, making roads, in a thousand other ways making it possible for the fighting men to get to the front, and for the necessary food, ammunition, and other supplies to reach them. But what man would want to render such service? It was somewhat exciting news for the Negro population of the United States to learn that only about twenty per cent of the colored draftees were to be trained to fight while the remaining Negroes in the military service would constitute noncombatant divisions in the Service of Supply, or other non-fighting organizations. On June 23, 1918, when 237,000 Negroes had been called to the colors, it was estimated that the battalions of the noncombatant to the combatant troops were in the proportion of about four to one.

To the Negro soldiers of the American Army fell a large part of the work of this "Service of Supply," or, as it was known in Army slang, the "S. O. S." The work of the Negro Stevedore Regiments and Labor Battalions, and their unrelenting toil at the French ports---Brest, St. Nazaire, Bordeaux, Havre, Marseilles---won the highest praise from all who have had an opportunity to judge of the efficiency of their work. Every man who served his country in one of these organizations was as truly fighting to save his country as though he had carried a rifle and killed Germans."

(Source: <https://net.lib.byu.edu/estu/wwi/comment/scott/SCh22.htm>)

James Clark was possibly married when he went to war. He and his wife Josephine did not return to Stone Mountain after the armistice but settled in Pine Hill, Decatur County in southern Georgia where he used his acquired mechanical skills as a helper in a machine shop for the railroad. In 1930 he was single working in Savannah on Bay Street and 10 years later, he was working in a steel mill in Pittsburgh. A James Clark is buried in the Stone Mountain Cemetery.

Elmer married either on his return from the War or right before leaving. Like James, he and his wife Ruth also did not return immediately to Stone Mountain. Instead they raised their large family in Pennsylvania where Elmer worked in a coke yard in the mining industry. Elmer, however, did return to Georgia later in life to Shermantown. He and his son Elmer Jr. are buried in the city cemetery, showing the family's continued attachment to his someplace. Elmer's grave (pictured above) is decorated with a plaque showing his military service and is further notable for its marker produced by American folk artist, Eldren Bailey. The Clark Family still resides in Shermantown where they have been located for over 100 years. We are working with Mr. Clark to capture his family's history.



Village Festival and Color Vibe Run!

May 20 For more information about this fun and colorful event go to: <http://www.thecolorvibe.com>



Join us for **Tunes by the Tracks**, a free concert series on Main Street, **Friday** nights May and June, starting at 7:00pm.



Save the Date!

Stone Mountain Historic Society's
July 4th Pancake Breakfast
Kick off your Fourth of July celebration with us!

Stone Mountain World War I Centennial Research Project

Did the story of Clark brothers remind you of a relative you know of from Stone Mountain who served in World War I? If so, we'd love to know about them!

Please contact Mary Beth Reed mbreed@newsouthassoc.com or 770-498-4155 ext. 128, and let us know so we can add your relative to our Stone Mountain WWI veterans research project.



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 Kathryn Wright at (404) 971-7185 or Mary Beth Reed at 770-498-4155 ext 128.



Save the Date!

CAFE JAYA HIGH TEA

**AT THE
WELLS BROWN HOUSE!**

The first High Tea of 2017 took place on April 1st and it was a grand success. Jeff Carey does a great job orchestrating the two-hour event that requires reservations and a love of cucumber sandwiches, scones, and more. **Next Tea will be the first Saturday in August.** Mark your calendars!