

# Stone Mountain Historical Society Newsletter

## February 2018



### **Greetings**

We thank all of you who renewed their membership and those who just became members. Great to have you all on board! We appreciated seeing such a strong crowd at our January presentation on Roy Faulkner by his daughter, Donna Barron. Great talk and discussion on an extremely important historical figure within the history of the mountain and village and the Society was honored with a signed copy of "The Man Who Carved Stone Mountain" by Donna for our library. We are looking at doing a new exhibit on a Stone Mountain artist, Margaret Ratcliff, this spring and are working with the City on World War I Centennial planning for the fall. We are also planning a Retrospective on Mayor Randolph Medlock later in the year. On the social side, we will host a High Tea in partnership with Sweet Aroma on Sunday the 25th from 12:30 to 3:30 pm and come and enjoy springtime on our porch when our Cheers! starts on Friday March 30th.

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 received a complimentary calendar filled with historical Stone Mountain photographs in appreciation for your continued support. We hope you enjoy it!



### **2017 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  
Jim McCurdy  
Naomi Thompson

## Best Wishes to Kathryn Wright!

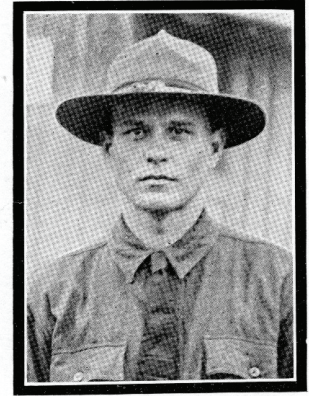
Kathryn is the heart, soul, and smile of our organization and we all wish her a speedy recovery as she starts therapy after a car accident earlier this month. She has an indomitable spirit and we know she will be out golfing as soon as she is able. A group of friends "Kathryn's Team" organized by Melanie Florence gathered on the Wells Brown stairs (see above) for a photograph to show their support.

## Our Friend in Stone Mountain - Margaret Ratcliff Exhibit

Margaret "Peggy" Ratcliff, a Stone Mountain based artist for two decades, produced a wealth of enamels, ceramics, pottery, oil paintings and watercolors over her professional life. She was known in particular for her enamelwork and her beautifully rendered plates and bowls that show a love of nature and animals drawn from her surroundings.



She sometimes did commissions and we at New South Associates are fortunate to have been given a welcome gift to the village that was produced by Ms. Ratcliff in 1994. It features a prehistoric pot – perfect gift for an archaeological firm. The exhibit opens at the Wells Brown House on March 25th. If any members have a Ratcliff piece we can borrow for the exhibit please call Mary Beth Reed 77-498-4155 ext. 128.



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 Banner Program

Do you have a relative or know of a World War I veteran that you wish to honor? Please contact Kim Cumbie at [kcumbie@stonemountaincity.org](mailto:kcumbie@stonemountaincity.org) or Theresa Hamby at [thamby@newsouthassoc.com](mailto:thamby@newsouthassoc.com).



## World War I Centennial - Veteran Commemoration on Main Street

November 11, 2018 marks 100 years since the end of the Great War. Join us in celebrating the centennial with a banner program and a service, hopefully at the mountain summit just as they did in 1918 (see below). More on the service in July as we proceed with planning. We will keep you posted.

### **PEACE IS CELEBRATED TOP STONE MOUNTAIN**

Stone Mountain, Ga., November 11. (Special.)—Stone Mountain celebrated the signing of the armistice and ending the war by building a great bonfire on top of the mountain around which the entire citizenship gathered and sang "America" and "The Star Spangled Banner." Following the din of many horns and bells the quiet ceremony on top of the mountain was very impressive. A patriotic address was delivered by Colonel Carl E. Guess, representative-elect from DeKalb, and prayer was offered by Rev. E. G. Thomason.

The DDA's "Look" committee and the Historical Society are teaming up to honor WWI veterans from the village, or veterans related to residents, with a banner on Main Street. The banners will be on display in September and October. We are asking community members to sponsor a banner that will include a photograph, name, a branch of service, and the relationship of the veteran to the community. We are hoping to have two sets, each for a month-long display. Banners can be sponsored for \$50 (check written to the Historical Society) and they will be returned to the sponsor at the close of the celebration or can be donated to the Historical Society.

## Georgia State University Intern Works on Georgia Railroad Logbooks

Graduate student Pam Enlow Devore has chosen to work with the Central of Georgia Railroad ledger books found in the Depot rafters two years ago. She has almost completed her graduate studies at Georgia State University. We are looking forward to hearing about her findings on Stone Mountain's historic commercial life, specifically those merchants and individuals who used rail service in their business.

**STONE MOUNTAIN FIRE  
CAUSES \$30,000 DAMAGE**

**Over Half of Main Business  
Block Wiped Out in Early  
Morning Blaze.**

Fire which started at midnight and burned until 4 o'clock yesterday morning wiped out over half the main business block of Stone Mountain and caused a property loss estimated at about \$30,000, of which less than \$10,000 is said to have been covered by insurance.

The following places of business were destroyed:

- The Stone Mountain bank.
- The H. C. Tuggle Drug company's store.
- The Steve A. Wells Furniture company's store.
- Miss Dorothy McCurdy's millinery store.
- The Modern store.
- Office of Dr. W. T. McCurdy.
- Office of Dr. R. F. Wells.
- Williams & Garner's cotton seed warehouse.
- McCurdy livery stable.
- Two blacksmith shops.

The Stone Mountain Masonic hall was completely destroyed and the Stone Mountain jail was damaged to the extent of about \$200.

Only tireless effort on the part of the people of Stone Mountain who, scantily clad, worked four hours in the cold saved the Granite bank, the Southern Bell telephone exchange and the other adjacent buildings which were left standing.

**Started in Drug Store.**

The fire originated, it is believed, in the H. C. Tuggle Drug company's store on the ground floor of the McCurdy building. This building, the first to go, was valued at \$6,000 and carried only \$3,000 insurance. Only its walls remain.

Without waterworks or fire-fighting apparatus, the town for a time was in desperate straits, but practically every citizen fell to work with axes and buckets and it was due to their heroic efforts that the flames were finally checked. Aid was asked of the Decatur fire department, but no apparatus was sent, as it was known that the equipment would be useless because of the lack of water.

The flames attracted a large number of nearby residents, who came up by auto and helped in combatting the flames. Mayor Ralph McClelland, who directed the fire fighters, was loud in praise of three men who did effective and daring work.

**Three Heroes Named.**

"Three of the boys who were made heroes by the fire were Dean Rhodes, Sam Awitrey and a boy named Sanders," said Mayor McClelland. "They stood on the roof of the Granite bank throwing water while the flames were leaping all about them. Rhodes, who is cashier of the bank, would not leave his post on the roof until all further danger was over."

A rescue party saved twenty-five mules from the McCurdy barn just in the nick of time.

Stone Mountain has now had four disastrous fires in the past twenty years. For the purpose of preventing just such a disaster a progressive faction of Stone Mountain citizens some months ago started an agitation for a bond issue for waterworks and sewerage. Bonds were defeated, however, by twenty-one votes in an election held in December.

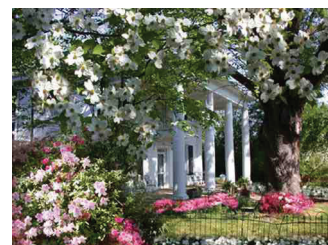
**This happened In  
1918.....**

**Atlanta Journal  
Constitution, January 3**



## Front Porch Get Together

at the Wells Brown House, March 30, 4:00-6:00 pm.



## 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)