

Stone Mountain Historical Society Newsletter

February 2019



Greetings

We have our feet firmly planted in 2019! We thank all of you for renewing your memberships and helping out with the 1871 Club. We couldn't accomplish our mission without your support. We got a lot done in 2018 and we are looking for an even more productive year ahead. We welcome Beth Snead, Events, Wayne Snead, Business Manager, and Joe Joseph, Treasurer, to the Board. We are delighted that Melanie Florence has signed up to be House Manager this year.

We start the year with a presentation tonight at Sue Kellogg Library at 7:00 pm on the Washington W. King Covered Bridge in Stone Mountain Park. Josh Blackmon, New South Associates historian, will give the presentation on this historically significant bridge created by master bridge builder, Washington W. King. Three generations of the King Family, an African American family from central west Georgia, are responsible for many of the state's notable historic bridges. Refreshments will be served and we are thankful for Sara Sellers for providing us the space for the talk.

Rounding out the first quarter of the year, we are hosting a Bunny and Pancake Breakfast on April 20th at 9-11 AM. Please plan on attending and enjoying our developing landscape. You will be amazed at the progress the Master Gardeners have made!



2019 OFFICERS AND BOARD

Mary Beth Reed, President
Melanie Florence, House Manager
Theresa Hamby, Secretary
Joe Joseph, Treasurer
Chakira Johnson, Membership Manager
Susan Devine, Grounds Manager
Beth Snead, Events/Programs Manager
Wayne Snead, Business Manager

At Large Members

Rusty Hamby
Jim McCurdy
Naomi Thompson
Kathryn Wright

Porch Parties will start in April and Events Coordinator Beth Snead has introduced themes for each. All are welcome!

April 26	Spring at Wells Brown House
May 24	A little Sip of Mexico on the Porch
June 28	Summer on the Porch

Creating a New Landscape



The Master Gardeners have been busy on the Wells Brown grounds making our vision for the lot come true. Taming invasive weeds and vines has occupied plenty of time spent on the corner property. In spring, we were aided by a group who helps refugees in Clarkston. The refugees have been given plots around Clarkston to use as vegetable gardens. They employ bamboo as garden fencing, plant stakes, and vine trellises. They helped remove our bamboo. It was a win-win day in the garden. We were able to help a group in need, and clear some of the invading bamboo in our side yard.

A plan is being drawn by a landscape architect for the back of the corner lot. There will be a walking path between perennials, shrubs and small trees, with benches and a small pond. The old pond was found while clearing the brush. It was probably built by the Wells family when they owned that property. We are excited to have a restoration project among the garden plans. We will try to use as many shrubs and perennials fitting the period of 19th and early 20th century southern gardens. We are very excited to take on this project with the help and guidance of the DeKalb Master Gardeners and the Landscape Architect. Finally, thanks to the Stone Mountain Woman's Club for the donation of an outside wrought iron bench.



Identified

The White Family

This family photo was found in the Depot years ago with no identification. I was placing it in the archives when I saw that the young woman was also featured in the photograph of the 1926 graduating class along with Marion Guess. Her image was cut off on the cover of the SMHS photographic book due to space concerns which is why I never noticed it before.

Becky Sanders was able to identify her as Sara White and we would love to have more information about her and her family.



Collaborative Projects

A year or so ago, Sara Sellers gave us a path forward on cataloging our library which continues to grow. In December, with a lot of help from visiting curators, we were able to catalogue many of the published books and we will hold another work day in the near future to complete the catalogue. This will allow us to share research materials with our community library and its patrons as well as those that contact us with research questions via our website. If you have any interest in helping out with this effort, please contact Mary Beth Reed, mbreed@newsouthassoc.com.

Bragging Note



Dr. George Coletti was honored at the Georgia Military College's opening exhibit of documents and artifacts, mostly from the 19th century, that he has donated to his alma mater in Milledgeville (see photo). George has always been a collector of historical knowledge as well as historic items and his willingness to share with his communities is unmatched.

The collection contains autographed items, including Presidents, statesmen and military officers from both the United States government and the Confederate States government. A few 20th century items include an autographed book by Amelia Earhart, autographs of World War II generals Dwight D. Eisenhower and George C. Marshal, and various ephemera. A small archive regarding Stone Mountain and the carving by Gustaf Borglum was also included. The College will also create a traveling exhibit of selected artifacts in the future for display at the College's campuses. We are hoping Stone Mountain will be one of those destinations!

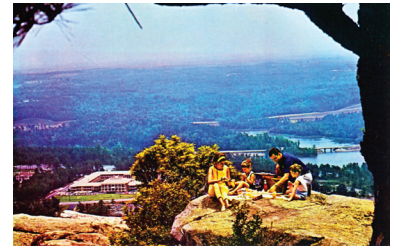
We invite the membership to contribute information about historic Stone Mountain – houses, families and events - from your own knowledge or research for posting in our newsletter. Please email stonemtnhistoricsociety@gmail.com or call Mary Beth Reed 770-498-4155 ext. 128. We look forward to hearing from you.



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.

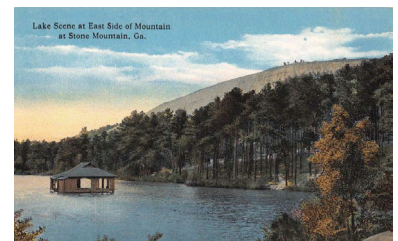
If you are interested, please contact us at stonemtnhistoricsociety@gmail.com



Goodbye Margaret Ratcliff, Hello Stone Mountain Postcards!

The Sanders Family and George Anne Hoffman generously lent enamel on copper pieces for our 2018 exhibit. They really brightened up the Main Room and added context to the exhibit as most were family-owned, commemorative pieces. We can't thank them enough!

Mike and Becky Sanders asked what new exhibit will go in the front room cabinets. I hadn't thought that far ahead but they suggested with enthusiasm a postcard exhibit of the village and mountain. Great idea! We will put a notice out to the membership in March to identify individuals that have collections and we can start putting together the exhibit based on the many postcards we are sure to find.



WANTED

Back editions of Stone
Mountain newspapers:

Stone Mountain

Occasionally,

DeKalb News Era.