



STONE MOUNTAIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Greetings!

It's midsummer and the start of school is a month away. I think we can all agree that 2020 is a tough customer!

Given that our typical ways to meet are not possible now, we will start using our website more vigorously to share our passion for Stone Mountain's history. We will post videos with the first being the oral history interview with David Thomas on the history of ART Station that we filmed in January. We are happy to share this with those who couldn't make it that night. Great night and both David and Michael are wonderful hosts! In production for the fall is a virtual tour of the Wells Brown House.

We have also decided to start a new newsletter approach, making it more content heavy. As many of us were not able to take a traveling vacation this year, we invite you to travel with us to what is arguably Georgia's first tourist resort which is a stone's throw away from us. The essay below looks at the early beginnings of New Gibraltar/Stone Mountain.

We are hoping to build on this in future newsletters by asking members to write essays about historic places, family research, and/or events they are working on currently. Write us and let us know what you are working on!

Also, we have already seen an uptick in donations as members are cleaning out closets during the pandemic. If you have an artifact you would like to donate, let us know about it. All donations are tax deductible.

(continues)

We were lucky to have Ally Cochran working on several SMHS projects this summer and I asked her to write about an artifact at the WB House before she leaves for graduate school. Pulling from the medical exhibit, she wrote a short history of the syringe. Pretty timely as that will be the much-awaited delivery system for the Covid-19 vaccine.



We are taking it to the streets again – Main Street -- with banners celebrating the centennial of the passing of the 19th Amendment which gave women the vote. We are working with the City to bring history alive by showing the women who made history both on the national level and those who were the first to vote here in our community. Sponsor a banner (see below).

Finally, even though we can't assemble at the Historical Society, all members are welcome to just sit a spell on the porch or bring a book and read. Get out of the house and enjoy our outdoor space. The Marks Lot we acquired next door has been totally transformed by the Master Gardeners. Despite the heat, the bamboo is gone, a trail has been established, and new plants are in the

ground. Our Poplar Springs frontage has never looked so good. So come and visit. 1036 Ridge Avenue is a great place to spend some time and explore.

Research Request



We receive requests from researchers via our website and we work hard to provide answers to their questions. We have a query now about where the H. C. Tuggle Chevrolet dealership was located and if a historic photo exists. The researcher purchased an old sign (see photo) and wants to learn more.

In Remembrance, Lynne Dundon (1952-2020)



Statuesque, bejeweled, with a thick crop of auburn curls, Lynne Dundon was always lovely. You smiled when you saw her coming. At meetings she was a consummate professional, well-spoken and able to tackle difficult subjects with ease and her trademark sense of humor. She had tenacity and clear eyes. I learned so much by watching how she handled herself.

At a party, the best seat in the house was next to her. Something always happened and peals of laughter were typical when you were in her company. She just made you feel good.



She told a good story especially after a little Fireball– the best to me was about a romantic encounter in Ireland. She was in charge of a needy tour group at a pub where an incredibly handsome Irishman made fabulous eye contact with her and her alone but, by the time she could return to engage with him, he was gone. A once in a million, grand romance lost BUT the way she told it complete with sighs about his eyes and the cranky tourists was so fun. We laughed like teenagers.

The Stone Mountain community lost an incredible leader, volunteer, person and friend on March 11. We miss her.



New Additions

We don't know the event or when but Betty Autry, received a beautifully framed oil painting from her friend, Josephine Brown Cervantes, a Stone Mountain native and owner, along with her husband Ernesto, of the Wells Brown House. Betty Autry handled Josephine Cervantes affairs after her husband's death.



The **Still Life with Flowers by Hispanic artist Salvador P. Bermudez** adorned the Autry's living room on J. B Rivers Drive and it is now part of the Stone Mountain Historical Society collection along with a beautiful hand-colored photograph of Josephine as a young woman given by Tim and Linda Carroll from the estate of Chick and Betty Autry. The painting was donated to the Society by the Josephs.



May brought a copy of **Air News Relic, Vol 1, No.2 Aug/Sept 1981** to our doorstep. James G. Williams, a resident of The Villages in Florida, but a previous resident of Marietta, donated this great publication from the Georgia Historical Aviation Museum then located on Bermuda Road in Stone Mountain. The Museum was formed as a non-profit in 1977 to restore and maintain historic aircraft. Its President was James Spiers Jr., Benny Britt served as Museum Chairman, and Allen Flower served as Secretary/Treasurer. The leading article was on the museum's acquisition of a C-47 from the FAA. The Museum appears to have been short lived but its establishment in the early 1980s suggests the airport on Bermuda Road, later known as Stone Mountain Britt Memorial Airport, made aviation museum history for a while. Thanks Mr. Williams!

Travel to Georgia's First Resort

Scarcely can I realize the fact that I left my good old mother city, at 10 o'clock A.M. yesterday, and I am now at the base of one of the greatest mountain curiosities in the world, two hundred and ninety-one miles, by rail road, from Charleston, and one hundred and fifty miles from Augusta, having arrived here between 7 and 8 o'clock A.M., and having accomplished that distance in less than 22 hours. To state the case in another form, I breakfasted in Charleston yesterday, and breakfasted here today...

- R. Y., Travel Correspondent, *Charleston Daily Courier*, August 27, 1849

.... Let me inform the citizens of Savannah that no necessity exists for going to the North to see objects of curiosity or to seek health. Georgia in these respects, cannot be surpassed. Would you believe it, the people of Savannah are called foreigners [here]...

Correspondence of the *Savannah Georgian*, July 23, 1847

An article enticing travelers to the fledgling frontier resort at Stone Mountain, now accessible by railroad, appeared in the *Charleston Daily Courier* in 1849 . Two years earlier, Savannahians

were the target market in a travelogue in the *Savannah Georgian*. Through these travelogues, we get a glimpse of how entrepreneurs Aaron Cloud, Andrew Johnson, and Dr. Weldon Wright envisioned Stone Mountain as a tourist destination as early as the 1830s. They are a trove of important information about Stone Mountain's early history and the incredible individuals that shaped it.

In the 1840s the resort and the village were growing into two different locations. The earliest at the base of the mountain and the second by the railroad. In 1849, R. Y, a travel critic, jumped off the train at the **Railroad Hotel** run by P. A. Haralson, a Tucker resident, in *Stoney Village* previously known "ambitiously as Gibraltar." The journalist's description of the new railroad village is level in its tone- "rather an inconsiderable one, but well stocked with stores, and *full* stocked with bar-rooms."

An omnibus, a horse-drawn, closed carriage, conveyed R. Y. from the village to the **Mountain House**, a three-story hotel with long piazzas, run by Andrew Johnson. Early on known as **Liberty Hall**, it was described in 1847: "A better house Georgia cannot produce. \$20 a month for board, six a week and 1.25 a day." Located at the base of the mountain, looking down on a spring it stood adjacent to a second three-story hotel once owned by Aaron Cloud but now also the property of Johnson. A small railway possibly a mule train provided access to the mountain hotels from the railroad.

The 1849 writer clearly interviewed Andrew Johnson who self identifies that he is the founder of the new railroad village. Johnson was a large land holder, farmer, and owner of the mountain and the hotels. The writer learned that Johnson had presented the railroad company with land for their depot as an inducement "to bring the Road to his door and furnish him with an access to markets, domestic and foreign, which has already, like the lamp of Aladdin, transformed his barren rock into ingots of gold." Johnson was all in favor of all things Stone Mountain and would be a host and supporter of the State Agricultural Fair that was first held in the village with his support.

After establishing this back story, the 1849 writer began his ascent of the mountain. "The ascent of the Mountain may be accomplished in 25 minutes the descent of course in less time." First stop - the "**Half Way House**." He doesn't describe the house but notes that it served refreshments to the weary. From the Half Way House onward, the path narrowed and featured a protective rail put in place by Dr. Weldon E. Wright, the owner of the pathway and a former Madison resident. Wright had placed a platform at the apex of the path for visitors to enjoy the vistas. The 1849 correspondent's description suggests that the platform was located near the scarp. A climb on the "Wright" path cost 25 cents.

While the summit afforded incredible views, all visitors were drawn to the tower. 50 cents got you in the door. The 1849 travel critic describes it as a quadragon (four sided), 145 feet high,

with a rod projecting another 20 feet into the sky that supported a large ball. "Tasteful and ornamental in design," it had apartments and balconies with a large chamber at the top so visitors could take in the surrounding landscape.

The 1847 description provides more detail: "Divided into five apartments one above the other, and an open balcony above. The first is appropriated for refreshments, the second is an elegant saloon ornamented with carpets, pier tables, sofas, piano and other musical instruments. Here ladies and gentlemen amuse themselves with drawing, music and conversation, the third is intended as a room where landscape views of different cities may be seen. In the balcony above, is a telescope for the purpose of extending the views."

One chamber had an "out of order" exhibit of architectural drawings for the edification of visitors that left the 1849 critic less than enthused. Finally, he played with sound as well as vision, communicating with others at the base of the tower. Every word could be heard at the top of the tower. Remember - R. Y was a travel critic. He recommended three changes to the visitor experience: the illustrative exhibit should be reconsidered, the tower should be rebuilt in Stone Mountain granite, and the fees should be lowered by 50 percent.



A circa 1840 lithograph of roughly the north side of Stone Mountain and the settlement of Gibraltar, the resort village at its base, provides a great companion image to the correspondent's descriptions. While the artist's attempt to get all the features into one image makes Stone

STONE MOUNTAIN, GEORGIA From a sketch by P. Cheek, T. Wood's Lithograph. 117 John Street, NY (Circa 1840) 11 1/4x 8 1/4. *Books Relating to the History of Georgia in the Library of Wymberley Jones of Wormsloe, Island of Hope, Chatham County, Georgia.* Compiled and annotated by Oscar Wegelin.

Mountain look like a wedding cake, the image overall corresponds well with the described features.

Andrew Johnson's hotel is prominent in the forefront with its three stories and piazzas. A large building behind it is likely the hotel described as once belonging to Aaron Cloud. Weldon's path is discernible along with the Halfway House and possibly the platform on the scarp side. The 1847 article refers to the refreshment house (Halfway House) over which the star-spangled banner flies "situated at the beginning of the road constructed by Dr. Wright to which the ascent is on horseback or carriages."

It is Cloud's Tower, however, that draws the eye. Aaron Cloud at the age of 37 acquired a 150-square foot plot on the most elevated area of the mountain in 1838 to build a tower. Research has not shown where Cloud's inspiration came from but by April of 1838 construction had started. Who formed his labor force is equally unknown; he may have used enslaved labor rented from Johnson.

The octagonal wooden tower was anchored solely by gravity; it was not tethered to the mountain. An 1842 visitor described it as resembling a lighthouse that reached 165 feet in height and cost \$5000 to build. Three hundred steps took you to the top of the tower which was eventually blown down in a storm possibly in 1840-1841 according to one account. A replacement tower, presumably the four-sided version described in 1849, replaced it, but it would also become relict.

Aaron Cloud sold both tower and the hotel for \$5000 to Andrew Johnson. By 1849, the complex – two hotels, the path and the tower – was owned by Andrew Johnson and he sought to expand his budding resort: "Mr. Johnson authorizes me to say that if the citizens of Georgia will support him, he will make such improvements and additions as will render Rock Mountain one of the most attractive spots in the United States. Bathing houses, &c, are in contemplation."

Andrew Johnson died in 1852, never realizing his dream. His heirs tried to make a go of the hotels and tower in the early 1850s but the Civil War would mark the end of the Johnson era. A visitor to the mountain during the War notes that the refreshment saloon halfway up was in ruins and the tower just a pile of rubble.

There was no mention of Weldon's railing but likely that was gone too. Weldon, known for his eccentricities, emigrated to Arkansas where he taught at a Female Seminary and drops out of the story. Aaron Cloud's post tower life story, however, is far more interesting....

Cloud became a merchant first in Stone Mountain village after selling the hotel and tower, and then established a mercantile firm in Griffin before serving the Confederacy. He returned home restless and moved with his family to Mellonville, now Sanford, in Orange County, Florida, in 1867, and acquired some land. At Mellonville, he started a whole new endeavor, earning him the reputation of being Florida's first commercial citrus nurseryman.

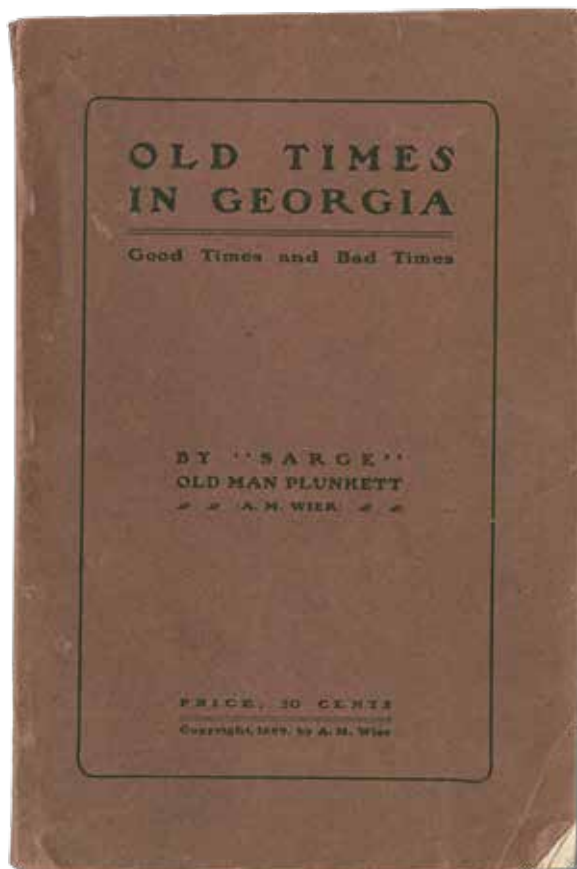
Cloud collected orange seed from three old orange groves that were originally wild groves that had been grafted or budded to “sweet stock.” He then broadcast the seeds on his newly purchased property and cultivated the seedlings. The *Tampa Tribune* in 1923 states that Cloud sold thousands of young orange trees across the state of Florida and preserved some for a family grove. “In ten years, he made a fortune from his nursery and the sale of his grove.” Cloud is credited with creating a vibrant orange industry in southern middle Florida with his successful Sanford stock.

Aaron Cloud was a larger than life character. We will never know what inspired him to build his tower but the travelogues underscore that he made a name for himself and the mountain. His audacious vision drew people in to see the developing frontier and he snagged the interest and money of Andrew Johnson who pushed the endeavor even further. Ironically, Cloud would find his fortune in the ground rather than the clouds.

“Sarge Plunkett” and Aaron Cloud

A final twist to the Cloud’s Tower era occurred late in the century. “Sarge Plunkett,” a pen name for A. M. Wier, a folksy writer that was beloved throughout Georgia’s households, told a cautionary tale about Aaron Cloud that was reprinted many times in late nineteenth-century Southern newspapers. His articles showed Cloud and his tower in a different light and takes

a few licenses with the mountain’s history to make his point.



Before these rocks had ever had a scar, [a] strange old man owned land and lived northeast of the mountain. He had raised a family there, as innocent as they were ignorant in their backwoods seclusion. The old man was rated an infidel, but his family were believers of a little log church which had been built very near the foot of the mountain, on the steep side. His family had long since despaired of ever getting the old man to enter their little church...

So matters stood when a man by the name of Cloud – Aaron Cloud- visited the section bought the mountain for perhaps a pony or a shotgun and announced that he was going to build a hotel and a great tower on the top of the mountain and turn the place into a summer resort for folks of fashion.

This all transpired, and our strange old man soon saw his family departing from their backwoods simplicities and taking on the airs of the fashionable people who congregated at the mountain. It was soon plain that the dissipation and extravagance so common at resorts of fashion was sure to enter and contaminate the simplicities upon which our strange old man so much doted.

Filled with sorrow about the changes he could not control, he passed the church hearing a sermon that preached that prayer and faith could move the mountain and he took heart, became a believer, and his family rejoiced. His faith was further sustained when a storm came and “blew away the hotel and shattered the tower and Aaron Cloud returned to Griffin and from there to Florida and has never been seen again.”

The cautionary tale, which is far more intricately written, ends simply with a reference to God’s mysterious ways. Why Wier singled out Cloud for his tale is not known. Both were Pike County natives that may have crossed paths or perhaps Cloud’s incredible ambition to reach the skies was a well-known Pike County story. Cloud’s Tower was also called Cloud’s Folly!



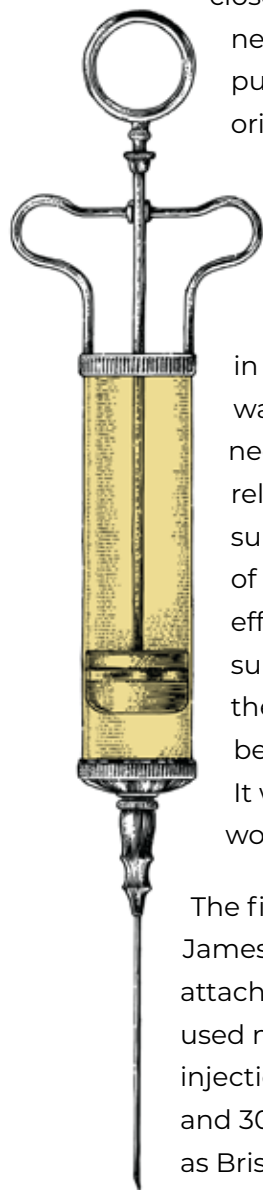
Sticky Business: The History of Syringes



By Ally Cochran

Syringes began as no more than a hollow quill with a small bladder attached to the quill. An injection was considered a surgical procedure because an incision would be made in order to insert the substance beneath the skin (subcutaneously). The first recorded injection took place in England and was done by Christopher Wren in 1656 at Wadham College in Oxford. Wren injected a dog with opiates to observe the effects. In 1662, Johann D. Major reported the first intravenous (into a vein) injection. However, it wasn't until the seventeenth century that a syringe was made that most

closely resembles the one used today. This syringe had a metal barrel with a needle at the end of the barrel. Most also featured a plunger that is pulled or pushed through the tube to expel or fill with contents. These devices were originally used for tracing blood vessels in corpses for anatomical study, however in the late nineteenth century syringes were used as deliberate forms of injection during the vaccination process.



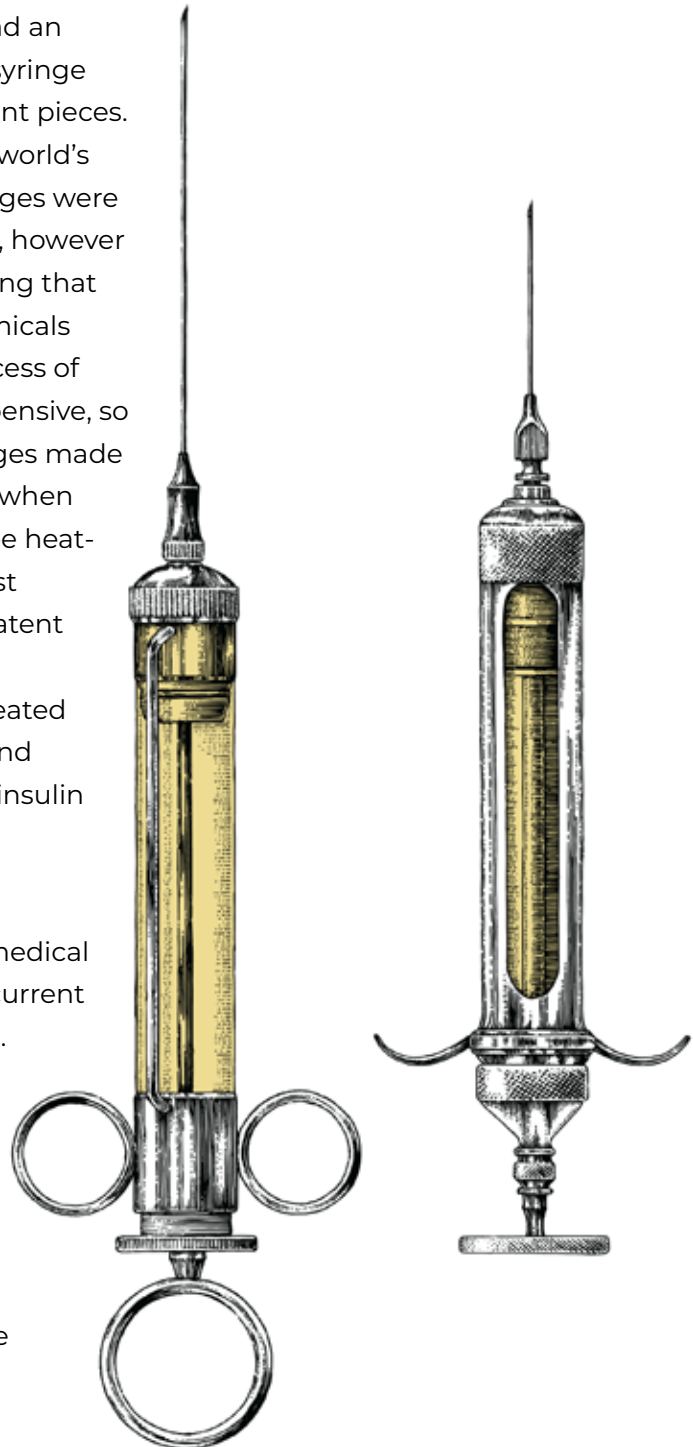
In 1844, Irish physician Francis Rynd invented the first hollow needle which aided in the first subcutaneous injections. Seven years later in 1853, Charles Pravaz and Alexander Wood developed a needle that was small enough to pierce through the skin, incisions were no longer needed. Wood was testing the subcutaneous injection of opiates for pain relief. Between the nineteenth and early twentieth, many believed that subcutaneous injection was more valuable than intravenous; the potency of intravenous injections was not yet realized. Most individuals studying the effects of injections believed that when injecting subcutaneously, that the substance would remain localized and not travel throughout the body. At the beginning of the twentieth century, a treatment for syphilis could only be delivered intravenously which was still considered a surgical procedure. It was also at this time that many discovered blood was the medium that would carry a substance to every organ, tissue and cell of the body.

The first disposable syringe produced in large quantities was designed by James T. Greeley in 1912. These syringes were collapsible metal tubes with an attached needle that contained a specific amount of morphine. They were used most commonly on the battlefield during World War I for subcutaneous injections. Further development of the disposable syringe occurred in the 1920s and 30s with the manufacturing of a morphine Syrette by Squibb (now known as Bristol-Myers Squibb). These syrettes became a standard part of the first aid

kits carried during World War II. Most syringes used outside of the war were reusable and required sterilization before use.

However, in 1946, Chance Brothers in England produced the first all-glass syringe that had an interchangeable barrel and plunger. This syringe allowed for mass sterilization of the different pieces. Charles Rothauser eventually created the world's first plastic hypodermic syringe. The syringes were originally made from polyethylene in 1949, however this materials softens when heated meaning that the syringes had to be sterilized with chemicals before being shipped out for use. The process of chemically sterilizing the syringes was expensive, so two years later, Rothauser produced syringes made from polypropylene, which does not melt when exposed to heat allowing the syringes to be heat-sterilized. By 1956, New Zealand pharmacist and inventor, Colin Murdoch obtained a patent for a disposable plastic syringe. Plastipak, another plastic disposable syringe, was created by Becton and Dickinson in 1961. Becton and Dickinson also created the first one piece insulin syringe with an integrated needle in 1979.

Syringes are used for so many different purposes, including some outside of the medical field. The most relevant, especially in our current world, is its use as a mode for vaccinations. Although we do not currently have vaccination for COVID-19, once the vaccine is ready we will have a way to easily administer the vaccine. Thanks to the doctors, scientists and inventors of the past, we have a fast, safe option for administering vaccines whenever the time comes.



WHO WAS THE FIRST WOMAN TO VOTE IN YOUR FAMILY?

The Southern fight for woman's suffrage started after the Civil War and it remained constant until victory was achieved in 1920. Marches, parades, the formation of organizations and associations, newspaper attention and the hard work of both white and black suffragettes tell the story of how women achieved the right to vote. **Research shows that 15 western states already had full female suffrage and some others partial suffrage before its passing.**

It became law when our neighbor to the north, Tennessee, ratified the amendment. Georgia's record on the 19th Amendment is less than illustrious. It was the first state to reject the 19th Amendment and would ratify it five decades later. Despite the lack of support here, Georgia's women got the vote in 1920. Due to a technicality, however, the state was initially able to delay women voting until the next presidential election.

The pursuit of women's rights was far from a perfect social movement as women of color were in many instances not welcome in the many national and state voters rights

organizations. As a consequence, associations that advocated for black voting rights organized separately. Many Black suffragettes played pivotal roles in getting the vote. In the Jim Crow South, however, poll taxes, literacy tests and other obstacles would delay women of color from voting. American Indian and Asian immigrant women were also denied the vote. Thus, new research makes clear that the 19th Amendment was a landmark event in the struggle for the vote by American women but that in practice the struggle for many continued through the 20th century.

The Historical Society is partnering with the City of Stone Mountain to celebrate this struggle with a Main Street Banner program showing the faces of the women who played a role in our voting history. Consider sponsoring a banner showing the first woman in your family to vote! See details on form.



19TH AMENDMENT

CENTENNIAL

President of the National American Woman Suffrage Association

ELIZABETH CADY STANTON

Sponsored By
Your Company Name Here



WHO WAS THE FIRST WOMAN TO VOTE IN YOUR FAMILY?

**SPONSOR A MAIN STREET BANNER IN
HER HONOR!**

FIRST TIME VOTER's NAME: (Print Please)

TELL US ABOUT HER:

WE WILL SCAN HER PHOTO.

SPONSOR NAME, EMAIL ADDRESS, CELL:

Banners will be hung on Main Street
September/October/November 2020.

CORPORATE DONATION \$100
PRIVATE DONATION \$50

Please let us know if you wish to keep the banner, if not
it goes to the Historical Society for safekeeping.

PRESERVING OUR PAST:

*The City of Stone Mountain in Partnership with the
Stone Mountain Historical Society*

Please make checks payable to the Stone Mountain Historic Society
and Thank You for your interest in our historic city!

Contact: Mary Beth Reed, 770-498-4155, ext.128, P.O. Box 1, Stone Mountain, Georgia 30086

There will be a suffrage timeline exhibited at City Hall starting in September in an attempt to
discover **WHO MADE HISTORY IN YOUR FAMILY?**

Help identify these people...



Photo A



Photo B



Photo C



Photo D

The envelope containing these undated photos is marked "'Mom and Dad' and 'Mozelle W. Thomason.'" The reverse of Photo B says "Alan, Mozell + James Wages." Please let us know if you recognize any individuals or can date the car (Judge Hoffman?) - Editor



Photo E



Photo F



Photo G



Photo H



**STONE
MOUNTAIN
WOMEN'S
CLUB, 1934**

**SPONSOR A
MAIN STREET
BANNER IN
HONOR OF
THE FIRST
WOMAN IN
YOUR FAMILY
TO HAVE
EVER VOTED.**

SEE ORDER FORM
ON PAGE 13



SOJOURNER TRUTH



ELEANORE RAOUL



MARY McLEOD BETHUNE



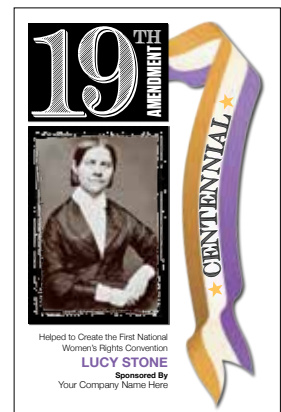
SUSAN B. ANTHONY



ELIZABETH CADY STANTON



LUGENIA BURNS HOPE



LUCY STONE



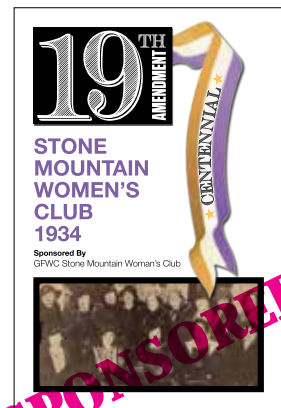
IDA B. WELLS



MARIE LOUISE BOTTINEAU



REBECCA LATIMER FELTON



STONE MTN. WOMEN'S CLUB