



STONE MOUNTAIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

IN THIS ISSUE

Meet Your 2022 Board



Greetings!

Thanks to your continued support. Renewing your membership allows us to continue our mission – preserving Stone Mountain's history. If you haven't had a chance to renew please consider doing so. We have a lot to share in 2022!

Theresa Hamby, Pauline Myers, and Chakira Johnson are hosting a **free Genealogy workshop** on **March 27th at the Wells Brown House from 1-3PM.**

Space is limited so please make a reservation at stonemountainhistoricsociety@gmail.com. Learn what is out there to discover your family tree.

We hope you will be able to join us for our second event – **a Pancake Breakfast on Saturday April 9th from 8:30-11:30AM.** Rusty Hamby will be our Head Cook, assisted by members of the Society's board. It is a fundraiser so come hungry and ready to have fun with neighbors and community members!

We want to thank Doris Hoenig for her gift to the Society of a beautiful quilt of her making, a toybox on casters, pickling equipment, and a postcard collection. Doris is headed to Florida where she will settle close to family and start a new chapter in her life. Best wishes!

Thank You!

THE BOARD MEMBERS

Mary Beth Reed
President
and Newsletter Editor

Theresa Hamby, Secretary

Pauline T. Myers, Treasurer
Chakira Johnson, Membership Coordinator
Susan Devine, Groundskeeper
Beth Snead, Events Coordinator

Wayne Snead, at large
Rusty Hamby, at large
Kathryn Wright, Board Member Emeritus!
Melanie Florence, House Manager

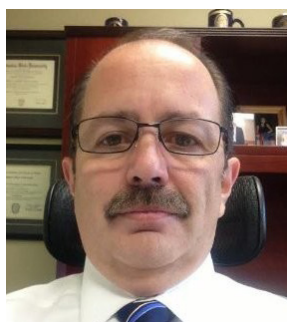
Meet Your 2022 Board



Chakira Johnson, a village resident and civil engineer, has served on the board since 2015. Councilwoman, Downtown Development Authority member and community leader, Chakira has kept us in touch with what is happening at City Hall. She is our Membership Coordinator and always extends a helping hand and her wonderful smile with Society events.



Susan Devine is in charge of our grounds and we are very lucky to have her expertise and her knowledge of historic buildings! Well versed in preservation, she and her husband, Jeff, own a landscaping firm, Haydenscape. In addition, Susan and Gary Pfeiffer manage a marvelous and productive group of Master Gardeners who devote an incredible amount of time to our property to beautify and develop it.



Duane Studdard is new to the Board but not new to Stone Mountain. Duane is our liaison with Stone Mountain Park where he is Director of Operations and Planning. He hails from the village where his Uncle Lewis owned Studdard Shoes on Main Street where Barron's is now. At the other end of the block was his grandfather's dry cleaners and a great uncle owned and operated Stone Mountain Taxi service for several decades at Main Street and Mountain Street. We look forward to working with Duane.



Pauline Thompson Myers, our Treasurer, is also a native of Stone Mountain Village. We are delighted to have Pauline on the Board. She is doing an excellent job as Treasurer but is also an incredible researcher. You give her a family name and, in a matter of minutes, you will find out who is related to who!



Theresa Hamby, an archaeologist, serves as our Secretary and also serves heroically on the City's Historic Preservation Commission. Through the latter, she provides us with information about upcoming plans and projects that might impact historic buildings. As Secretary, she keeps us up to date with the Secretary of State, our mailing list intact, helps with membership and so many, many other things. We have been so fortunate to have Theresa a village resident, on the board since 2014.



Rusty Hamby, (no relation to Theresa), is a founder of the Society, son of Howell and Anne, and a dedicated DeKalb County teacher at Cedar Grove Elementary School in Ellenwood. Born and raised here, Rusty is passionate about Stone Mountain history and education, understands all the connections and is always ready with a village story. He makes us all feel like we are family. With his beard turning white and his twinkling eyes, he could have a new career as the Society Santa in the future.



Melanie Florence serves as our House Manager which is no small job for someone who lives across the street! Melanie is always on deck. She witnessed the large tree fall last year and the havoc it caused as she worked with neighbors to contain and understand the extent of the damage. Melanie, daughter of our former treasurer JoAnne, is also ardent about the Society and the history of Stone Mountain. Like Rusty, Duane and Pauline, her family has strong roots here and we are blessed to have her on board.



Kathryn Wright, simply said, is an icon of the Society. She and her family are woven into village history and, yes, she is still playing golf and spicing up our Board meetings. Kathryn makes everything fun.

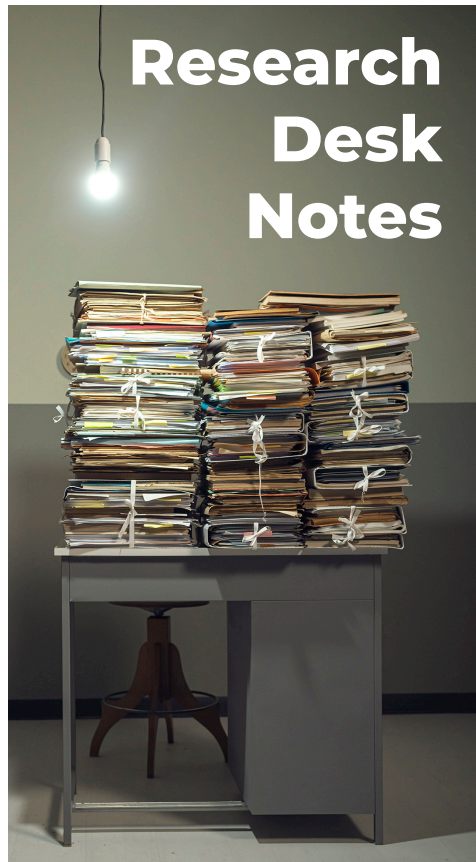


Wayne and Beth Snead, the Board does have a twofer! We lucked out when Beth and Wayne signed on. Beth serves as Events Coordinator for the Wells Brown House, keeping our calendar current for members uses. Please call or email her if you have a family event coming up and you need space to gather. Wayne has been our BBQ guru for years but he has also added to our business acumen as a Society and our interest in gaining corporate sponsorships. Residents of East Mountain Street, they both add so much to our Board!



Mary Beth Reed serves as president. Her strongest credential for the job is her love for Stone Mountain and its unique history. Mary Beth Reed is a co-founder of New South Associates. She serves the company as President. She is delighted to work with such a great Board in a truly great place!

We are looking for a new board member to help with social media and our website. Please email mbreed@newsouthassoc.com if you are interested.



Herbie Koch and His Music, a Stone Mountain Story

Two weeks ago, the Research Desk at the Society got a call from Maxwell Gosling with Little Ears Music based in New York. Max explained that he is working with a documentarian who is producing a film on the carving and its meaning. I believe George Coletti plays a role in it and it was George who referred Max to us. He wanted to use music written by Stone Mountain Park's Herbie Koch but was unable to identify who actually owned the music. Research Desk to the rescue!

Herbie Koch (pronounced Cook) was a musician who was known to me simply as the man who played the carillon in Stone Mountain Park. Donated by Coca Cola, the carillon was brought to the Park in 1964 after being on display at the Word's Fair in New York City. A Park icon, it is a beautiful mid twentieth-century design featuring over 700 bells located at the edge of the lake.

We soon learned that Mr. Koch was actually proclaimed the Official Carillonneur of the State of Georgia in 1964 and that his playing of the carillon bells was captured on vinyl in *The Bells of Stone Mountain* (nd), *The Popular Bells of Stone Mountain* (1969), *The Sacred Bells of Stone Mountain* (1970), and *Christmas Bells of Stone Mountain* (nd). Only two recording studios are identified on the record covers: Historic Stone Mountain Records/RCA, and Americana. The albums contained classical pieces, standards, and iconic movie songs as well as some written by Herbie Koch. Max Gosling with Little Ear wanted to use some of the latter but was stymied by the lack of information on Koch and his family. He needed permission to use the music and also to compensate the owners.

Who was Herbie Koch? How did he get the job at the Park? Where did Herbie go after his stint at the Park and who now owned the music?

Turns out, Herbie Koch (1904-1989) was an interesting 20th century figure. A native of Kentucky, he "broke into professional music" as a 14-year old when he was asked to stand in for an organist at the Rialto Theater in Louisville. Family lore has it that he was whisked from a tennis court to the theater. One newspaper article notes that he was a concert pianist for the Louisville Orchestra and the boys High School band. Music was his passion. He graduated from the Louisville Conservatory and the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. He later got a job

with Paramount Pictures and played background music in theaters for silent pictures across the country and abroad. During the 1920s he toured with Ginger Rogers, the Mills Brothers and George Jessel.

While in London at an Embassy event, he fortuitously met Ambassador Robert Worth Bingham who was also the owner of radio station, WHAS, in Louisville. Bingham mentioned a job at the station when he got home and Koch followed up. Koch would stay with the station and its affiliated TV station from 1933-1956. "His late-night show, "The Dream Serenade," ran more than 5,000 nights. A Louisville policeman once told him his music filled Cherokee Park every night, coming from the radios of cars parked there."



—Photos by Smith's Studio

HERBERT KOCH

Herbert Koch, organist at the Empire, "was bred in old Kentucky," and has been identified with musical circles, it might be said, since childhood, first studying the piano under Patrick O'Sullivan, composition under Arthur Becker and organ under Carl Wiesman. Mr. Koch's success began at the age of 14, when he held his first position, that of concert pianist for the Louisville Conservatory Orchestra. He was later leader of the Louisville Orchestra and the boys' High School band. In addition to holding important positions at the important musical centers, he was awarded the scholarship at the Chicago College of Music, and has written two brilliant musical comedies. Mr. Koch came to San Antonio two years ago, where he has since made his home.

in the country. He has as many as 60 compositions to his credit, among the more popular ones are "The Belle," "Dreamland" and "Love's Separation."



San Antonio Light, November 16, 1921

Honored as Louisville's TV Personality of the Year by TV Magazine in 1954, he was known as "Maestro Koch" and his organ was the "Mighty Kilgen." Koch was also known for his great collection of university fight songs! In 1957 his Radio City Album was published by Edward B. Marks Music Corporation and two volumes of classical pieces were published by Belvin of New York. It appears he married twice; Louise Miller in 1926 and Mary Watterman in 1948.

About 1956, he started a new career as a carillonneur. He learned campanology (the art of playing bells) at Westminster College Choir in Princeton, NJ. He first played at Liberty National Bank and Trust's office in Louisville which earned him sufficient recognition that he was a guest carrillonneur at the Seattle and New York's world fairs and the Montreal Expo. He left retirement and Louisville in 1966 to become carillonneur and music director of Stone Mountain Park.

We are not sure where the Koch's made their home in Stone Mountain. He would perform carillon programs four times a day on Saturday and Sunday and three times on weekdays

San Antonio Express, February 11, 1923

except Tuesday and Wednesdays which were his day off. Sacred music was his forte but he understood that park guests would appreciate a wider range of music. After seven years, Herbie retired to Sun City Arizona where he and his wife Mary spent the remainder of their lives.

While all this information was great, Max needed to contact a descendant. That entailed a few more hours of research. The Koch's had two daughters, one of whom passed away in 1977. This left Mary Louise who had married a nurseryman, Harold Hewitt Harned, and was living in Greensboro NC in 1989 when her father passed away. Her trail went cold until we discovered Harold Hewitt Harned's obituary in Louisville's *Courier-Journal*. Mr. Harned passed away in 1996, leaving his widow Mary Lou and their grown children, H. Hewitt Jr., Hollis H. Wild, Quinn H. Hampton, and Louise Harned-Libin. Further archival detective work identified the location of the family's nursery in Stanly County NC and even further googling got Max a phone

number to call. To his delight, we had found Herbie's grandchildren and his daughter Mary Lou who is still alive and well. We weren't in on the call but it certainly was a Stone Mountain story that we wanted to share. We hope to hear the bells of Stone Mountain when the documentary comes out. Keep us posted George!



Do any of our members know where the Kochs lived while in Stone Mountain? Did any of you hear him play? We would appreciate adding his albums to our collection. If you have a copy and are willing to donate, please email us. **Thanks!**

stonemountainhistoricsociety@gmail.com

Coming Events

Free Genealogical Workshop Sunday

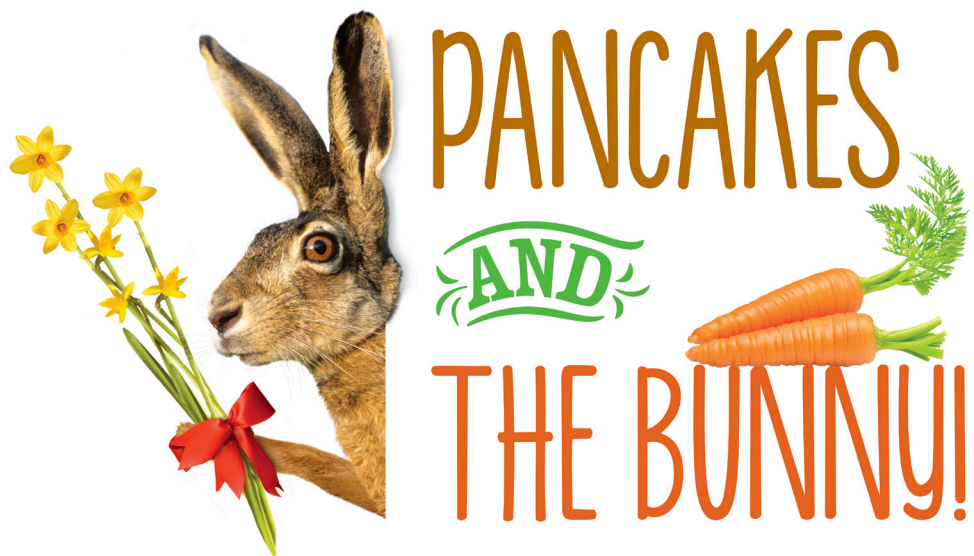
March 27th 1-3PM Wells Brown House, 1036 Ridge Ave., Stone Mountain, Ga

Pancake Breakfast

Saturday April 9th, 8:30-11:30 AM, Wells Brown House, 1036 Ridge Ave.

Adults \$12 • Children \$5

Come Support the Stone Mountain Historical Society!



EASTER SATURDAY

FROM

8:30

to 11:30

April 9th



One More Opportunity for Family Fun!

Help us Celebrate the 10th Anniversary of **Archaeology Day!**
6150 East Ponce de Leon Avenue, Stone Mountain

JOIN US!

May 7, 10am-2pm

May is Archaeology
Month in
Georgia!

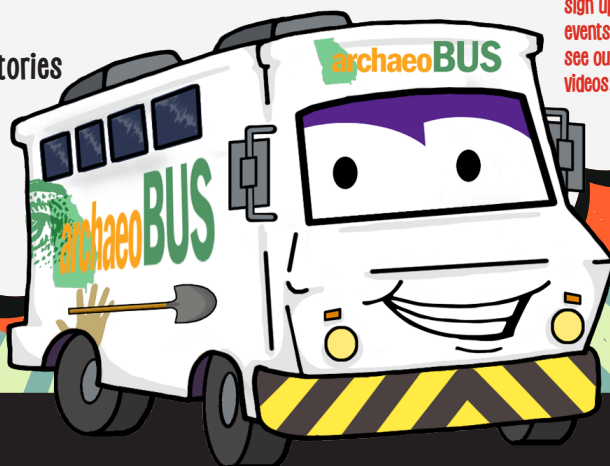


#RunandTellThat
#aDecadeofHiddenHistories
#EveryStoryTold

New South's Annual
Archaeology Day Event

for 2022 is now an **entire month**
of virtual and in-person activities!

Check our
social media
pages to stay
informed,
sign up for
events, and
see our latest
videos.



Facebook: www.facebook.com/newsouthassociates; **Instagram/Twitter:** @newsouthassoc
To access educational content, visit us at portaltothepast.newsouthassoc.com