



STONE MOUNTAIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Greetings!

Fall is here and with it comes the political yard signs! There are three council seats open and eleven aspiring candidates. We hope that as you consider each, you think about their stance on preserving our city’s diverse history and if they support the care of our most precious historic resource, our cemetery. The Historical Society needs city leadership that values all our histories and is willing to find ways to take care of our tangible past. **Go vote!**

Mary Beth Reed, Editor



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

Rusty Hamby
Kathryn Wright, Board Member Emeritus!
Melanie Florence, House Manager

BBQ and Italian Night – Both Successes

We had a good crowd this year at the BBQ and the Snead BBQ, and Hamby banana pudding did not disappoint. We made \$1,657 towards our goal and we even sent out “take home” dinners. It is always a great way to end the summer, but we are going to move it next year to October so we can better enjoy BBQ on our porch and in our beautiful yard in the cooler weather. Once we get a date, we will let you know.

We just had our first Italian Night last weekend. The aroma of lasagna, baked spaghetti, stuffed shells, rigatoni, and meatballs filled the house. Great turnout and plenty of food that was enjoyed by all. We were able to raise \$1,233 towards our capital campaign. We are thinking about making this an annual event but moving it to February in the future. Both the BBQ and Italian Night could not happen without the terrific group of volunteers that serve on our Board: Wayne and Beth Snead, Theresa Hamby, Chakira Johnson, Duane Studdard, Melanie Florence, Susan Devine, Pauline Myers, Kathryn Wright, and Joe Joseph. And special thanks to everyone who attended!



Last 2023 Porch Party - Friday, October 27th

Drinks, light food, stories, and fun to be had on the Wells Brown porch from 4-6 PM. If you want to bring a dish that would be appreciated.



Save the Date!

Christmas Party
Friday December 1, 7-9PM.
Music and Mexican food that
celebrates our Cervantes
heritage. Come join us for
this festive event!

Thanks to the Georgia Trust

We were able to rehabilitate our ADA access with a Callahan Grant provided by the Georgia Trust. It looks terrific and we owe thanks to those who contributed to the 1871 Club which allowed us the matching funds needed.



Capital Campaign – We Need a Roof!

We kicked off our capital campaign in August, and I am proud to say with all your help at our annual BBQ and some wonderful donations we were able to garner \$7,500. What a great start. Our total goal is \$50K and that is to replace the roof, associated repairs, gutters, repair shutters and to get rid of some unwanted attic visitors (not paranormal). Rosie's Roofing made the immediate roof repair last month, working with us so that the repair cost is applied against the total cost of replacing the roof. They were great to work with and will hopefully be able to finish the job this spring when we meet our goal. Unfortunately, they found a raccoon had taken up residence. The freeloader has been removed and the entry point sealed.

Moving ahead, we are looking at grants and other pathways for our members to help support our efforts, such as stock transfers. Our website will now feature a "giving" page and we will be looking for corporate sponsorships. We have also provided a proposal to the city where we would work in partnership to achieve city preservation goals and, in response, the city would restore our funding that we used to sustain operations at the Wells Brown House. We will keep you posted on our success!



Connecting to the Past, Stone Mountain Day, August 5, 2023 – Theresa Hamby

I woke up Saturday morning thinking of excuses that might get me out of attending Stone Mountain Day for the Historical Society. I knew it was going to be blazing hot and I just wanted to sit on my porch in front of the fan reading. But I thought about Mary Beth and knew the only excuses she'd accept would be a broken limb, preferably my own. So, I got ready and met Chakira at Leila Mason Park at 11:30 am to set up a small tent with historic pictures, a map of 1917 Shermantown and copies of the 1930 census. When we arrived, it was hot as expected, and a crowd of folks had already been hard at work setting up. The smell of grilling was everywhere and there was even a film crew and a local reporter there to document the event.

Around noon, the speakers began, including members of the community, city government and clergy. Everyone was great, but the last speaker, Minister Marvin Needam was really something. He didn't speak from the stage but came down to speak directly to the crowd and was very inspiring.

Folks began to stop by the Historical Society tent and look at pictures and the census and chat a bit about old Stone Mountain and Shermantown. One gentleman, Mr. Gregory Herans, was looking at the pictures of the Baseball players as his grandfather Richard Fanning had played and he wondered if he was one of those pictured. We asked his name and managed to find him in the census. Mr. Herans was overcome with emotion I think at tangible proof

of his grandfather's existence. Elaine Vaughn found her Stewart grandparents in the census and was able to share it with her younger family.

I'm so glad I didn't get out of going. The hot sun was totally worth it to see the folks in Shermantown celebrating their history and their community, to be inspired by Minister Needam, and to play a small part in helping people connect to their past.



PHOTO: Board Member Chakira Johnson hosting Historical Society booth at Stone Mountain Day.

Talking Stone Mountain

Presentation on Historic Village Homes

Sue Kellogg Library

Monday, October 23rd, 6-7pm

Mary Beth Reed, Historian, New South Associates

Sara Sellers, Librarian, let us know that the library has received requests for a walking tour of Stone Mountain. This presentation will focus on village homes; the types and styles that our building inventory reflects and what they tell us about our history. It is a precursor to the actual tour (see below) orienting tourgoers to what building types they will see on the tour.

Walking Tour

Saturday, November 4th

10AM

We will meet at Library at 10AM for a one-hour tour of Main Street in which Sammy Wade will tell us about Main Street when he was growing up. We are hoping to film him. Then we will offer a tour of East Mountain Street and a tour of Shermantown both at 11:00AM led by Society members. Both will be 45-minute pedestrian tours, but the Shermantown group should meet at Leila Mason Park to get started.



PHOTO: Main Street, Fourth of July Parade, 1980s

Research Notes

“Lindbergh Faced Disaster: Flying Colonel’s Aide Writes of Experience Over Stone Mountain”

Excerpted from the *Atlanta Journal*
Friday Morning, June 22nd, 1928.
Submitted by Dr. George Coletti

Stone Mountain, nemesis of famous Air Mail pilot Johnny Kytte*, all but brought disaster to Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh soon after he left Atlanta last fall on his way north after visiting this city. Strong air currents caught Lindbergh’s Spirit of Saint Louis as he flew a low pass by the carved faces on the mountain ...he all but lost control, while the power lines from the base to the side of the mountain were directly in front of him, Donald E. Keyhoe, Aide to the colonel on his

tour of the nation, states in June 23rd edition of the Saturday Evening Post.

Fear clutched the hearts of Mr. Kehoe, Phillip Love, Lindy’s companion in training in air mail days and “Doc” Maidment, who were in the advance plane, as the Spirit of Saint Louis was twisted and tossed into the “fiercest air currents we had experienced anywhere on the tour,” Mr. Keyhoe says. “Inside of five seconds all three of us had been thrown out of our seats and half of the baggage was in our laps,” he says in describing the way the advance plane acted when the Stone Mountain air currents hit it.

The advance plane headed back toward Lindbergh when it had climbed out of the treacherous currents to warn him of the danger. Before the trio could get close



PHOTO: Charles Lindbergh takes off from Candler Field on October 12, 1927 on a previous trip to Atlanta (Digital Library of Georgia).

enough to make the Flying Colonel realize what was in store for him, they saw him lower than they had been, flying toward the carved surface of the granite, with the power lines directly ahead of him.

Frantically they gestured to Lindbergh, and then his plane was caught in the clutches of the currents, caused by the wind striking the base of the mountain and being deflected vertically upward, to clash with cold currents sweeping over the smooth top and rolling down the side.

"Just as he struck the first air current his hand (which had waved to the advanced plane) abruptly disappeared." Mr. Keyhoe says, "Even caught thus unexpectedly then Lindbergh was instantly in control, as he opened his throttle and begin to fly through the region of turbulent air. We watched anxiously as he neared the wires, but he soon climbed above them. "We breathe a trio of relieved sighs, and then the Spirit of Saint Louis turned back. This

time Lindbergh flew down by the side of the memorial exactly as he had said he would. The baffled winds hurled his ship up and down so that I could not even focus my camera on it, though our own plane was by now in fairly quiet air. His sightseeing trip completed, Lindbergh zoomed up alongside of us and nodded smilingly."

Mr. Keyhoe says in his article that Lindbergh 's quickness on the controls, automatic actions on rudder and throttle in close quarters, while his eyes are watching a nearby ship of anything else which happens to be occupying his attention are part of the Lindbergh's ease in placing his ship where he wishes in relation to moving or stationary objects. It was this ability he states which serves the Flying Colonel well when he rushed unexpectedly into stone to the Stone Mountain air currents.

* Famous Air Mail Flyer that crashed into Stone Mountain, wrecking his aircraft but able to retrieve the mail despite injuries and get it to Atlanta.



Charles Lindbergh (3rd from right) poses in front of a parked biplane (not to be confused with the Spirit of St. Louis) at Candler Field.

Just In - Great Addition to Our Collection

The Society received from the Stone Mountain Police Department' Court Docket ledger books for safekeeping. They chronicle arrests made in the City from 1937 through the 1980s. History-minded Officer Bob Tillis kindly brought the large hardbound books over so that they could be inventoried and cleaned and essentially readied for research. They offer a fascinating view of Stone Mountain life and are incredibly important historical documents. We only got a chance to look at the earliest log from 1937 and it tells a story of small-town values prior to World War II.



Remembering Mike Sanders

On a serious note, we wish to note the passing of one of our long-time members, Mike Sanders. He and his wife Becky were always bright spots in the room when they attended our functions or provided support. Mike was a Navy veteran, working later as a plant manager for Vi-Mac, a Texaco distributor. As a craftsman in stained glass, he has left an enduring legacy in the Stone Mountain Methodist Church and in many village homes where his art is displayed. We were honored to have him as a member and friend.