



# STONE MOUNTAIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Greetings!

Summer is here this week. We had a great start to the year welcoming the Atlanta History Center for a viewing and discussion of the documentary *Monument* followed by a talk on our cemeteries. Both were hosted by Sue Kellogg Library and were very well attended. Huge thanks to all the AHC staff that came to talk with us about the carving and its multiple meanings. I think it started many conversations among us. Stone Mountain loves its cemeteries, and we had a great crowd there sharing information. Best part- Pauline Myers and Mary Jane Johnson were delighted to find kin who had returned to the area in the crowd. Sara Sellers, Branch Manager of the library, has let us know that one of the main requests they get from visitors at the library is for a tour of Stone Mountain. We are honoring that request by developing a tour, both virtual and actual, this fall. We will keep you posted.



## IT'S SUMMER!

### THE BOARD MEMBERS

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# *Porch Party Season*





We were able to do a filmed interview with Sammy Wade and with Diane Dallas, both long-time residents of the village. Both will be made available for research purposes at the Wells Brown House, and we are hoping to do at least 3-5 more interviews in the coming year.

We have started our Porch Parties again and they have been a tremendous success. The first was hosted by the Anne and Rusty Hamby. Chakira Johnson and Shani Linder hosted the second. There were signature drinks, great food, a lot of conversation and laughter (see photos Left). The Marshes arrived in a vintage Caddy that we are sure would have caused some envy from Dr. Wells. He purportedly was the first car owner in the village. The Wells Brown House porch sparkles at these events and we are expanding our membership with each porch party! If you have been unable to attend, please plan on attending in the fall.

The Wells Brown House has been open for tours the first Saturday of each month from 10-2 and we have had good response. Put us on your calendar and join us!

Finally, we have just celebrated **Juneteenth**, and it was a pleasure to see the banners honoring Stone Mountain individuals that have contributed to our history on display on Main Street. The banners were completed by the Society under a contract with the City to partner in exhibits and banner programs. We hope to do more in the future.

## Save the Dates!

<b>Pancake Breakfast</b>	Tuesday, July 4	9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
<b>BBQ</b>	Saturday, August 19	6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
<b>Porch Party</b>	Friday, September 22	4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
<b>Porch Party</b>	Friday, October 27	4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
<b>Italian Night</b>	Saturday, October 28	6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
<b>Christmas Party</b>	Friday, December 1	7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.



# Joe Tucker Collection

This summer we were lucky to have an intern from New Mexico come for almost a month to learn about what we do at New South Associates and help with Archaeology Day. Bella (“Jutta”)



Greiner was a gift. Her parents grew up here in Stone Mountain, her grandparents and her extended family are all here, and her mother is Art Director at New South. A new high school graduate ready to start at the University of New Mexico in the fall, Bella was tasked with multiple jobs during her short internship. Scanning and indexing a collection of historic photographs, brochures, and news clippings provided by Gary Peet was her first task. Gary Peet’s collection was just the right size for a three-week effort, so she got started inventorying scanning, then

putting the photos in archival storage. There was a series of photographs of the park under construction including 77 views taken between 1964-1968 and 18 Stone Mountain village scenes, mostly undated. All were taken by Joe Tucker, Gary Peet’s uncle. Who was this man and what compelled him to photograph events and places? Finding out was Bella’s job.

*“From Charles Tucker Sr. helping to carve the Stone Mountain Memorial, to Mazie Tucker teaching elementary school, the Tucker family was always very involved with Stone Mountain. Whether they became a full time Resource Librarian like Peggy and managed the whole of DeKalb’ County’s Multimedia materials or took pictures of all things in Stone Mountain like Joe Tucker, they all made their way into the History of Stone Mountain.”*

*– Bella Greiner*



Newly married “Mazie” Elizabeth Carswell (1900-1978) and her husband Charles Julian Tucker (1897-1974) migrated from Bibb County to DeKalb County in about 1920. He was 22 and she was 19. The young couple settled in Stone Mountain village where they started their family: Peggy in 1924 and Joe in 1928. Charlie was initially a foreman for the Stone Mountain Granite Company in 1930 but would start as a “night policeman” and eventually head up the City’s police force. Mazie was also a public figure; she taught at Stone Mountain Elementary School for over a decade. The Tuckers made their home on East Mountain Street. Joe’s sister, Peggy Tucker Peet, would be an educator; she was the DeKalb County School Systems’ Resource Librarian.

**Mazie Tucker with son Joe, 1934**

**Joe Tucker, circa 1925**

Joe Tucker was thought to have had polio as a child as the brace on his right leg in family photos attests. This physical challenge may have led him to pursuits such as photography and radio. He was the first at the scene of the fire at Stone Mountain Elementary in 1943 with a camera. At age 15, Joe Tucker's photos of the destruction made the front page of the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*. As a teenager and as an adult, he would take many photographs that showed everything from Main Street to new buildings to the developing park. His father Charlie was part of the team that completed the memorial in the 1960s. Many are iconic views that have not been attributed to him to date.







**The Early Village Movie House      Main Street Theater with Art Deco Facade**



**Joe Tucker and Roy Mitchell**

We owe him for the history of the village's movie house owned/developed by his close friend Roy Mitchell. The Mitchell theater was first on East Mountain Street in a jerry-rigged adaptation that looked like a hunting blind on what is now the Cherokee Rose building. The later theater featuring a new Art Deco facade is located on lower Main Street. The theater, 925 Main Street, has been greatly altered in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century into an office building.

The Society is now the proud owner of 10 well preserved movie theater posters from the 1940/1950s that played on Main Street at the Mitchell Theater. According to Sammy Wade, many Saturdays were spent there watching western movies. Roy Mitchell was the de facto village babysitter. Kids



# Calling All Volunteers!



We are looking for docents to lead tours of the Wells Brown House this fall. It is a great way to learn the history of the house, Ridge Avenue, and the village and it's fun meeting who comes through the door.

We are also looking for volunteers to work with the collections.



**Interested?**  
Please contact, Mary Beth at  
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