

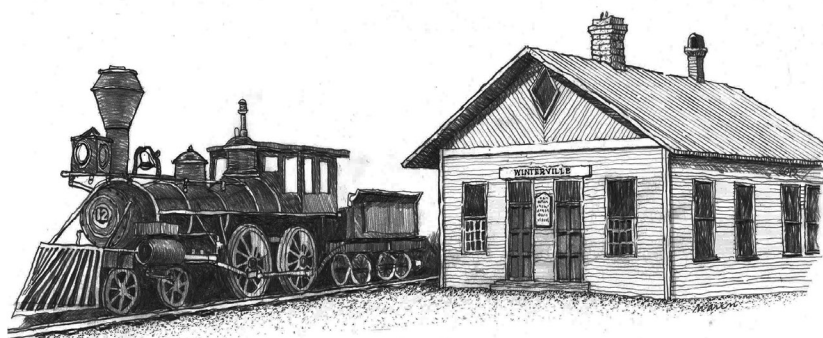


# THE ATHENS STROLLER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
ATHENS HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
FALL 2019



## AHS FALL PROGRAM: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 3:00 PM WINTERVILLE: CLARKE COUNTY'S "OTHER" TOWN



This drawing by AHS Board member Bill Mann depicts the Winterville depot in the nineteenth century. It will appear on a map of Winterville presently being prepared for sale by AHS.

entrenched in the small community. The depot was soon called Winter's Station after Heinrich Winter, the first section foreman. When his cousin John Winter became postmaster in 1866, the village officially became known as Winterville. With the railroad, Winterville prospered on into the 20th century.

The village was originally located in both Clarke and Oglethorpe counties and incorporated in 1904. In 1906, Winterville citizens voted to be associated with Clarke County. Come to our program and learn more about Winterville, population 1,122 (as of the 2010 census) and still the only other incorporated municipality entirely in Athens-Clarke County.

The AHS Fall program will be on (and in!) Athens' neighboring town of Winterville. The program will begin at 3:00 pm in the historic Winterville Auditorium (373 North Church Street) and will feature the unveiling of the Winterville Historic Map, a lecture by historian and museum curator Jonathan Scott of the Winterville Historic Preservation Commission, and an opportunity to tour community and local sites such as the Carter-Coile Country Doctors Museum and the Winterville Depot. A reception will follow the program. According to Wendy L. Bond of the city of Winterville, the Auditorium is accessed for parking off Winter Street. Currently there is limited parking in the Community Center and Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA) lots. Overflow parking is normally in the Winterville Baptist Church lot just down from the building at the south end of Winter Street.

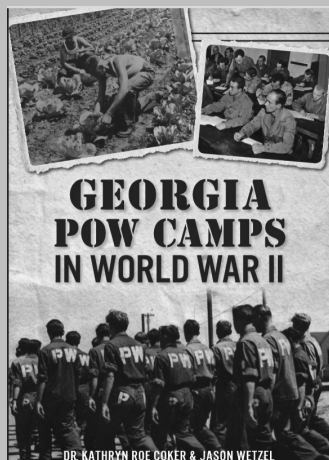
Winterville was originally established in the 1840s as "Six-Mile Station," a Georgia Railroad depot for wood and water, six miles east of Athens. The Winter family from Germany settled in the area in the 1850s and was soon

### SAVE THE DATE! AHS WINTER PROGRAM

JANUARY 26, 2020  
3:00 PM  
A-C-C LIBRARY

"GEORGIA  
POW CAMPS IN  
WORLD WAR II"

Kathryn Roe Coker &  
Jason Wetzel  
(See more on page 4)



# THE ATHENS HISTORICAL SOCIETY VS HISTORIC ATHENS

(formerly THE ATHENS-CLARKE HERITAGE FOUNDATION)

by Pat McAlexander and Kevin Garrison

Originally published in the Winter 2016 *Stroller* (updated)



Queries to the Athens Historical Society reveal that people often, understandably, confuse the Athens Historical Society and the organization now named Historic Athens (formerly the Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation). The two are complementary organizations which support each other's work and have many members in common. However, they have distinct identities and goals. AHS, the older, smaller, and more "academic" organization, seeks to expand and share knowledge of all elements of Athens' history—its people, places, and events. It does so through conducting research, holding regular educational programs and receptions, and sponsoring publications, rambles, and historic markers in Athens. It also attempts to assist people with their research on Athens' past, answering queries that come to its Facebook page and email address. And, usually yearly, it gives the Hull award, named after nineteenth-century historian Augustus Longstreet Hull, to an individual who has contributed significantly to knowledge of Athens history.

Historic Athens likewise sponsors publications, educational neighborhood walks, and social events (including a wonderful holiday fund-raiser, the semi-annual Fun-n-Friends at historic sites, and the recent Porchfest), but its focus is to preserve the historic "built environment" of Athens. It supports the formation of historic neighborhood districts, seeks to control inappropriate infill, funds selected historic properties and sites (such as the Welcome Center at the Brumby House and Beech Haven), and gives awards to those who have preserved or renovated historic Athens buildings. It can take a stand on conflicts in Athens involving razing and construction of structures.

Most of the queries to AHS appropriately raise questions regarding Athens history. For example, Pat Chernishkin of Hilton Head SC, wrote us: "I have a hand-written book written to an Anna E. Mitchell from her friends in 1859. It looks like they graduated from the Tracey Cobb Institute (?), and wrote messages to each other. Do you have any information on this Institute or who Anna E. Mitchell was?"

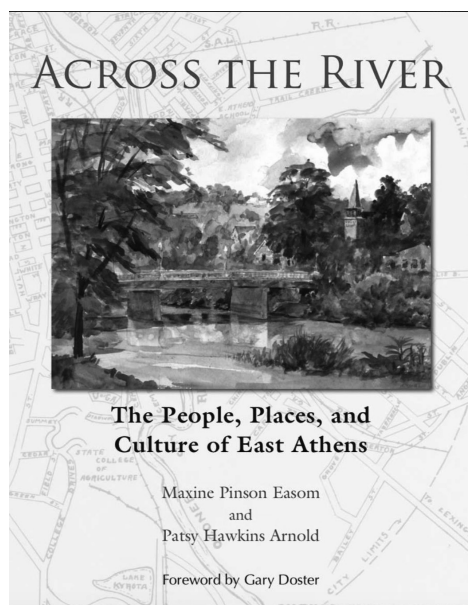
Here are excerpts from the AHS answer (by Theresa Flynn): "The school was the Lucy Cobb Institute, founded in 1859 by Athens attorney Thomas Rootes Reade Cobb, author of the Georgia and Confederate Constitutions, to provide local, high quality education for the girls of Athens and surrounding areas. Right before the school opened, T.R.R. Cobb's daughter, Lucy, died, and the board elected to name the school for her. . . . The school operated until 1931, providing academic training for girls and young women that was equal to the training in male schools (oratory, Latin, sciences, mathematics, as well as art, music, and literature). . . . [Theresa then went on to give a short summary of Anna Mitchell's life.]"

However, another query to AHS, from a UGA journalism major, shows how the Athens Historical Society is sometimes confused with Historic Athens/the Athens-Clarke County Heritage Foundation: "Good morning, I am reporter for Grady NewSource and today I'm looking into the grocery store that is going up on the intersection of Prince and Pulaski. I would like to hear what your organization thought about this development. I am working under deadline and would like to come out to talk to someone within the next couple of hours. If someone could get back to me or refer me to someone who I could talk to, I would appreciate it. Thanks."

AHS (through Theresa Flynn) explained to this young woman that she needed to get in touch with the (then) Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation, which "focuses on historical preservation and development," and told her how to get in touch with that organization, specifically their director. We hope the young woman was able to meet her deadline!

We also hope that this article illustrates the distinction between AHS and Historic Athens. But it suggests as well the interrelationship of the two organizations—for knowledge of the past, details of its way of life and its people, makes appreciation of the historic structures around us all the richer.

# AHS SUMMER PROGRAM ON *ACROSS THE RIVER*



Most of the seats in the Athens-Clarke County Library's Appleton Auditorium were filled on August 25 and 3:00 pm when Maxine Easom and Patsy Arnold presented a program on their new book, *Across the River: The People, Places, and Culture of East Athens*, edited by Theresa Flynn. Maxine and Patsy, who grew up in East Athens, said that they hoped their book would fill the void of information on the historical significance of the district—which was, as they write in their book, “the cradle for the birth of our city and the economic foundation for our city’s early years.”

Located on the east side of the Oconee River, the “east side” area was not included officially as part of Athens until 1840—twenty-five years after the city was incorporated. At that time, the one-mile city radius was approved. Further definition for the area came in 1847, when the city was divided into three wards, with East Athens being the first ward. The authors said that their goals for their book included “to highlight

the contributions and accomplishments of East Athens citizens” and to “eliminate the negative perceptions of East Athens,” perceptions based in part on the bias against the many residents of the area who worked in the mills and with their hands.

The information packed into this 609-page book should fulfill their goals. Filled with photographs, it describes the family life in the



Reception after the program, with refreshments provided by Mama's Boy (photos by Pat McAlexander)

area, the churches, the Mom and Pop grocery stores “on every corner,” the Night School for the factory workers (both adults and children), the Neighborhood House community center, and the lives of many notable East Athens residents. One of those notable residents was Athens Mayor Alonzo Dudley, who as a young child worked at the Climax Hosiery Mill as a sweeper for fifty cents a day and attended the Night School. By age twenty-nine he was Superintendent of the Climax Hosiery Mill, by 1912 its President-Treasurer. He soon also became involved in Athens politics, first serving as councilman for the First Ward, then twelve years (six terms!) as mayor. The audience, with their enthusiasm and interest, seemed to understand why the authors had felt compelled to write the “untold” East Athens story.



Maxine Easom and Patsy Arnold at the AHS program

After the program, a reception was held in an adjoining room, where the authors signed copies of their book, and guests mingled and socialized. Mama's Boy, appropriately an East Athens restaurant, provided delicious refreshments. The Athens-Clarke-Country Library Heritage Room co-sponsored this program.

**Note: *Over the River* is available for sale at numerous area locations, including both Avid bookstores, the A-C-C Library Store, and the Athens Welcome Center**

## HISTORY NOTES



Michael Thurmond autographs a book at the launch of his book *A Story Untold* on June 8 at the Classic Center (photo by Daniel Borremans)

- Sales of the third edition of Michael Thurmond's book *A Story Untold: Black Men & Women in Athens History* have been brisk. It was launched at the Classic Center on June 8 to a sizeable crowd in spite of the weather. Since then, Thurmond has appeared at a number of talks and signings. Recently AHS Board member Dan Aldridge reported, "We are nearing the point of having sold half of the published copies. This edition seems destined to sell out just like the first two editions. If you are considering purchasing this book, do not wait too long in contacting us. We still have signed copies available." Contact AHS at [athenshistorical@gmail.com](mailto:athenshistorical@gmail.com). See the article about "the man on the cover" of Thurmond's book elsewhere in this newsletter.

- For our January program, authors Kathryn Roe Coker and Jason Wetzel will discuss their recently released book, *Georgia POW Camps in World War II*. During World War II, more than twelve thousand German and Italian prisoners captured in far-off battlefields were sent to POW camps in Georgia. With large base camps located from Camp Wheeler in Macon and Camp Stewart in Savannah to smaller camps throughout the state, prisoner re-education and work programs evoked different reactions to the enemy. Join author and historian Dr. Kathryn Roe Coker and coauthor Jason Wetzel as they explore the daily lives of POWs in Georgia and the lasting impact they had on the Peach State, including areas not far from Athens.

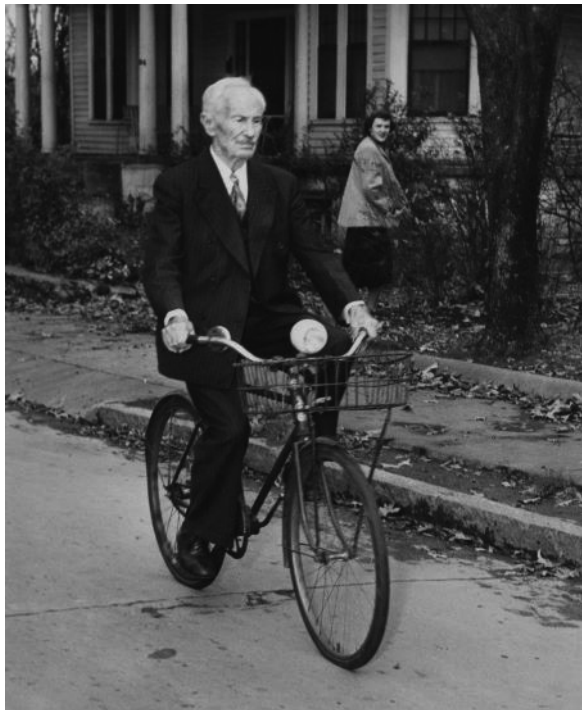
### **A note to AHS from Tommy Valentine, Executive Director, Historic Athens:**

"Historic Athens has been consistently inspired by—and thankful for—the leadership at Athens Historical Society. We are excited to be working more closely with AHS, especially through our joint work to promote a chapter of the Georgia Trust's Inherit Georgia youth preservation initiative. Both of our organizations share many of the same values, stakeholders, and (most importantly) the same incredible city. We look forward to the many years of partnership to come." –October 2019

# THE MAN ON THE COVER

## The Story Behind the Cover of the New Edition of *A Story Untold*

by Steven A. Brown and Beth A. Whitlock



This is the famous view of photographer David Lewis Ernest in old age, cycling around town, still photographing with color slide stock.

(Courtesy of Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library/University of Georgia Libraries)

What is the story behind the picture on the cover of the new edition of Michael Thurmond's *A Story Untold: Black Men and Women in Athens History*, recently reissued by the Athens Historical Society? The image is originally from the University of Georgia's Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library. This photograph, taken by David Lewis Earnest, is mounted on cardboard and is included in collection number ms1377.

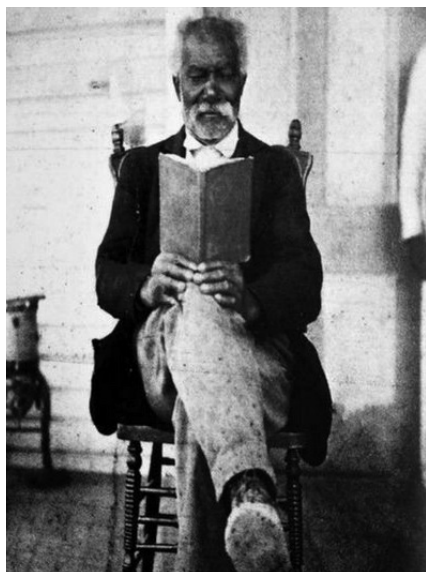
David Lewis Earnest was born in Tennessee in 1862 and came to Athens in the early 1900's. An educator at public schools, the State Normal School, and at the University of Georgia, he was well known around Athens for his bicycling and photography. *The Red and Black* described him in 1952 as "the elderly professor who rides a bicycle" even as he celebrated his 90th birthday. Earnest died in 1956 leaving behind rich and very revealing photographs of Athens and the South. Many can be viewed through the Digital Library of Georgia ([https://dlg.usg.edu/collection/guan\\_earnest](https://dlg.usg.edu/collection/guan_earnest)) and through two of his four online finding aids. The man pictured in the *Story Untold* cover photograph, Pittman McWhorter, was born in January, 1826. We know very little about McWhorter's life before the Civil War. In the 1870 U.S. Federal Census, McWhorter (age 48) is living in Maxeys, Georgia, with children Robert (farm laborer at 14), Pleasant (age 13), William (age 11), Jane (age 10), and Amy (age 8). In this census the children are listed as mulatto and Pittman as Black. He could not read or write but owned real estate valued at \$600 and owned \$500 in personal items. His occupation was listed as farmer. Using this information, we concluded that he probably

was a slave in Oglethorpe County before the war. Slave owner James H. McWhorter owned 26 slaves including one black male listed as age 24 according to the 1850 U.S. Federal Census - Slave Schedules for Oglethorpe County. That black male may well have been Pittman McWhorter. In 1880 the Pittman McWhorter family had relocated to Greene County, Georgia. Pitt is 53 and still farming and has married Sarah, a mulatto of 40. Children listed are Amy (laborer at 16), Frank (laborer at 14), Emma (laborer at 13), Julie (laborer at 12), Douglas (laborer at 9), George (age 8), John (age 6), and Lucy (age 6 months).

As much of the 1890 census was destroyed, our next encounter with the McWhorter family is not until the 1900 U.S. Federal Census in the Sandy Creek District of Clarke County, Georgia on the Hull Road. Pittman is 74 and still listed as a farmer. Although still listed as illiterate, he owns his own home with no mortgage. Wife Sarah has borne 16 children, 11 of whom are still living. Living with Pittman and Sarah are son John (laborer at 20) and daughter Lucy (farm laborer at 17), as well as grandsons Charlie (farm laborer at 16), Robert (farm laborer at 13), and Homer Brawner (farm laborer at 10) as well as granddaughter Jesse Brawner (farm laborer at 10). All of the children and grandchildren can read and write. In 1910 the U.S. Federal Census shows Pittman (A.) McWhorter still in Sandy Creek on Hull Road with wife Sara(h); he is 90 and she is 65. Pittman is still listed as a farmer. Included in this household is Guss Thrasher (son-in-law) and Lucy Thrasher (daughter). Guss is a farmer at 28 and both he and his wife can read and write.

Sometime between 1910 and 1920 Pittman must have died. In 1920 Guss Thrasher owns the farm and home. Listed also is Guss's wife Lucy (35), his daughter Lourine (farm laborer at 10), daughter Emma Mae (in school at 8), son Weldon (5), and his mother-in-law Sallie (Sarah) McWhorter (widowed and 72). All the family is listed as mulatto and all, except for Sallie, can read or write. Research into the deeds of Clarke County do not reveal land belonging to Pittman McWhorter.

## THE MAN ON THE COVER *continued*



Ernest's photograph of Pittman McWhorter on the cover of Thurmond's *A Story Untold*  
(Originally from the Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library/University of Georgia Libraries)

However, Sallie McWhorter bought 23 ½ acres along with Nancy Jenkins in 1891. The deed gives surrounding owners as well as markers such as sweet gum trees, red oaks and stakes.

Since the censuses through 1910 claim that Pittman McWhorter could not read, we may ask why he is shown with a book. There are various possible answers. Census records can be wrong if a neighbor supplied the answers or the census taker was careless. Or perhaps he learned to read in advanced old age. Or, since obviously literacy was valued by McWhorter's descendants, perhaps he wanted to be photographed with a book to suggest the pride he felt in what his descendants had accomplished.

**This information about Pittman McWhorter has been culled from census records and other local sources. There are bound to be descendants of Pittman McWhorter in the area. We would like to know more about this interesting citizen of Clarke County. Email us at [athenshistorical@gmail.com](mailto:athenshistorical@gmail.com) if you can fill in more information.**

The 1963 AHS exhibition of Athens antiques at the University of Georgia Museum included a cabin room with fireplace built of handmade bricks by Joe Collier. Other items in the display were cast iron cooking pots and andirons, a candle mold, bench, and a spinning wheel.



## 2019 ATHENS HISTORIAN NEARING COMPLETION

Larry Dendy, Theresa Flynn, Pat McAlexander, and Eve Mayes have been working on the 2019 Athens Historian, which will celebrate two anniversaries—the one hundred and twentieth of the original Athens Historical Society (founded 1899) and the sixtieth of the current society (founded 1959). The issue will include photos and articles about members of both the original and revived AHS as well as a list of programs and speakers for meetings of the modern society. One highlight will recall an amazing exhibit of Athens antiques AHS sponsored at the University of Georgia Museum of Art in 1963. The volume should be out near the end of the year.

## HISTORICAL LOST AND FOUND: LAKE DIXIE

AHS Board member Bill Mann asks, have any of you ever heard of Athens' once famous Lake Dixie? Between 1922 and 1925, it was a popular recreation spot for Athenians and students of the University. There were scores of advertisements for the place in the local newspapers, as well as a few articles about events staged there. Where was it and what became of it?

In the beginning, a contest was held to name the "bathing place." The prize-winning name, Lake Dixie, was submitted by Charles Oliver Jackson, a Tech High student in Atlanta and grandson of former Athens resident Charles S. Oliver. Lake Dixie was sometimes described as "Athens newest swimming pool," and at . beautifully surrounded Whichever it was (or Lake Dixie was opened parties on June 7, 1923. reported that it was — on the Whitehall stated that "hundreds of afternoon and evening." "the Whitehall Band") dances, square dances were held, fish fries and put on, swimming and were staged, and several exhibitions of their Buses and taxis shuttled from Lake Dixie. It was week until midnight -- under electric lights. School and church picnics were popular (Central Presbyterian held a school picnic there), as were social club and company banquets.



The last *Banner-Herald* mention of Lake Dixie was in the edition of July 22, 1925, with an ad saying, "Why Stay So Hot?" and announcing that cars, leaving from the post office would take people to the lake round trip every thirty minutes from 2:30 p.m. to 10:30 Saturday and Sunday. The cost was twenty-five cents for adults and fifteen cents for children.

But knowledge of Lake Dixie seems to be lost, except for these newspaper items and advertisements. If any readers know more about Lake Dixie, please let us know! Contact Bill Mann c/o the Athens Historical Society, [athenshistorical@gmail.com](mailto:athenshistorical@gmail.com).



# NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS 2019-2020

This listing includes corrections from the last issue's list. (Some corrections may not yet have made it to the address labels). We thank those listed below their support! Send corrections to Pat McAlexander at patmcalex@gmail.com. To join or renew, send your check made out to the Athens Historical Society to AHS, PO Box 7745, Athens GA 30604-7745. Include your phone number, mailing address, and email address. Memberships go from March 1 to March 1.

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## AHS MEMBERSHIP FORM

### PLEASE HELP US EXPAND AND SHARE KNOWLEDGE OF ATHENS HISTORY!

Our membership year is from March 1 to March 1. If you have not already joined or renewed for March 2019 to March 2020, fill out the form below and mail it with your check payable to The Athens Historical Society, P.O. Box 7745, Athens, GA 30604-7745.

Membership level: (*circle one*) Student \$20, Individual \$35, Family \$50, Supporting \$75, Patron \$150

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(*Your email address is requested for online mailings & updates.*)

I would like to make an additional donation of \_\_\_\_\_.

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