



THE ATHENS STROLLER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
ATHENS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SPRING 2017



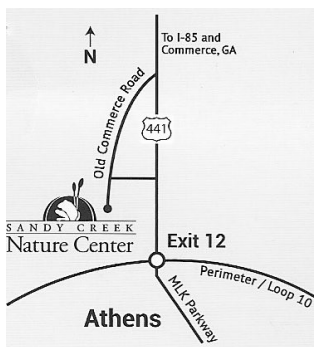
“RAMBLE IN THE RUINS”: THE STORY OF THE ROMANTIC RUINS OF THE GEORGIA BRICK COMPANY



On Saturday, March 25, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., Beth Whitlock and Steven Brown will present a program on the Georgia Brick Company that was located during the early 1900s on the grounds of the Sandy Creek Nature Center. Appropriately, the talk will be given at the Sandy Creek Nature Center, 205 Old Commerce Road, with an optional ramble after-

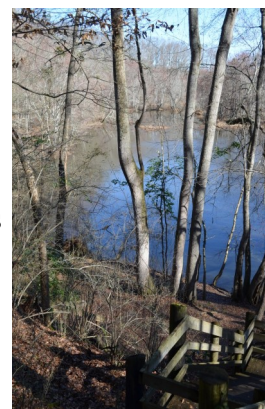
wards to the brick company ruins. The turn-off to the Nature Center is close to the Perimeter/Loop 10 (Exit 12), on the left going north on 441. See map at right. (Do not get confused with Sandy Creek Park off Bob Holman Road, quite a distance up 441 on the right.) **Note that the event is NOT a Sunday, as usual, but on a Saturday, as the SCNC is closed on Sundays!**

The first hour of the program will be held in the SCNC's Education and Visitors Center auditorium. Parking is on the right as you enter the Center grounds, and from there you will see the Education and Visitors Center building



ahead of you. Before the program, AHS merchandise will be for sale, and a brief AHS meeting will be held for members to confirm our three new Board nominees. (See pp. 2-3.) Then Steven Brown will tell about the Georgia Brick Company's history, illustrating his talk with 26 recently discovered archival photos from 1911. Beth Whitlock will follow up with the story of the “insidious lady inventor” Mrs. Frances Shaw, who apparently “bamboozled” the Athens (and Atlanta!) business communities—including the brick company owners. Finally, Randy Smith, SCNC Director, will bring the brick site to the present, discussing its context and potential at the Nature Center.

After the program there will be an optional ramble led by the presenters to the ruins of the brick company and the edge of Claypit Pond, created as a result of dredging clay used to make the bricks. (The pond is much prettier than its name suggests.) Those who go will walk or carpool to the ruins, which are about a half mile down a paved road through a beautiful natural setting. (There is limited parking at the site of the ruins.) Small bottles of water will be available for the ramblers.



AHS OFFICERS AND CHAIRS FOR 2017-2018

President: Mike Kitchens
Vice President: Sam Thomas
Secretary: Pat McAlexander
Treasurer: Harry Neely
Historian: Steven Brown
Membership: Svea Bogue and Beth Whitlock
Newsletter: Pat McAlexander
Social Media: Janet Gregory

THE GAVEL REPORT

by Michael W. Kitchens, AHS President

The only thing that does not change is change itself. Change is constant. And thankful we should be for it. After all, it is the fact that things change which sparks the flame of historians to learn about and record the past. For while all around us is in a constant state of flux, only the past remains fixed. Perhaps because the past is permanent, we feel the need to study it with an eye toward giving meaning to our present and future. Even as your Athens Historical Society seeks to study and record Athens' past, it nonetheless is subject to change as well.

2017 finds your historical society in fine condition. Your officers and Board of Directors have worked tirelessly over the past year to grow the society's membership, balance the organization's budget, broaden the region's understanding of its history, and honor icons of the organization's past. We have made significant progress in all of these goals. We fully expect to build upon this progress again in 2017.



Mike Kitchens

An enormous amount of the work done for the society is performed by the dedicated and hard-working Board members. We began 2017 returning all of the officers and Board members who had served in 2016. However, change comes at unexpected times and since the first of the year, two of our Board members have resigned to dedicate more time to other responsibilities. **Theresa Flynn** and **Evelyn Reese** have served the AHS for years as Board members. Both were present at and a vital part of nearly every program and event held by the AHS over the last few years. Their counsel to the Board and participation in AHS events will be sorely missed. We know that you join us in thanking them for their years of dedicated service.

But as a few prized Board members move on, we hope to welcome new members. **Janet Gregory**, **Dan Aldridge**, and **Cindy Galt** have recently been nominated to the Board. However, they will not officially become members until the general membership of the society votes to add them at our March 25, 2017 program. The current Board of Directors recommends that the general membership vote to approve these individuals, who are willing to serve and perform the work necessary to keep your AHS moving in a positive direction.

The AHS also had a golden opportunity to recognize one of its former presidents and long-time member, **Mary Bondurant Warren**, with the 2017 Augustus Longstreet Hull Award in January 2017. Mary's work to record and preserve not only Athens history, but Georgia history is far too voluminous to record here. Indeed, just the bibliography of her written works could more than fill this version of the *Stroller*. What a badge of honor it is to have had Mary's name attached to this organization both now and in many years past. It is good and fitting that your AHS honored her with the organization's highest award.

Read the upcoming issues of the *Stroller* and our Facebook page to stay abreast of all that your AHS is doing. We have a number of exciting programs planned. Moreover, several new items of merchandise are in the works. Change continues for the AHS, but we hope that you will agree that the changes are not only beneficial, but also important to a strong society.

THREE NEW BOARD NOMINEES

Dan A. Aldridge, Jr., is a semi-retired business consultant who currently serves as president of the Friends of Georgia Libraries. He recently received the American Library Association's 2016 national White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services award for his volunteer work with Georgia public libraries. Dan earned a BS degree in Commerce from the University of Virginia and a JD degree from the University of Georgia School of Law. He is author of *To Lasso the Clouds*, *The Beginning of Aviation in Georgia*, which won the 2016 Excellence in Documenting Georgia's History Award, presented by the Georgia Archives.



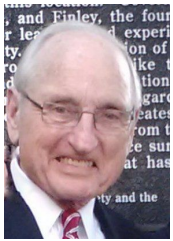


Cindy Galt, a Commerce High School graduate, married Billy Galt in 1972 and for 20 years accompanied him on his Air Force travels to many states and countries. Throughout these years she kept up her clerical skills, taking classes and earning college credits. Back in Athens, Cindy worked in a number of UGA departments, then attended Athens Technical College full-time, receiving her diploma in Business Office Technology with high honors in 2007. One of her many awards as a student there was the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs' Outstanding Student Leadership Award. Cindy has worked as a graduate assistant in the UGA College of Education's Department of Lifelong Learning and Adult Education and as a secretary to the Department Head of African-American Studies. She is now retired. She and Billy have been regular attendees of AHS programs.

Janet Parker Gregory was born in Covington, and raised in Polk County, Georgia. She moved to Athens in 2001 to study philosophy and art history at the University of Georgia, and returned to UGA for a degree in non-profit management. Janet is the Administrative Director of the Junior League of Athens and Taylor-Grady House; in the past she has worked at Crawford W. Long Museum in Jefferson and the Athens Welcome Center/Church-Waddel-Brumby House. In her spare time she enjoys running, exploring historic Athens, and watching her husband Eric race his bicycle. Janet is a member of the 2016 LEAD Athens class, and is mom to a darling shih-tzu, Slade.



AHS PROGRAM, JUNE 25: VINCE DOOLEY AND SAM THOMAS, "THE CIVIL WAR CORRESPONDENCE OF WILLIAM GASTON DELONEY"



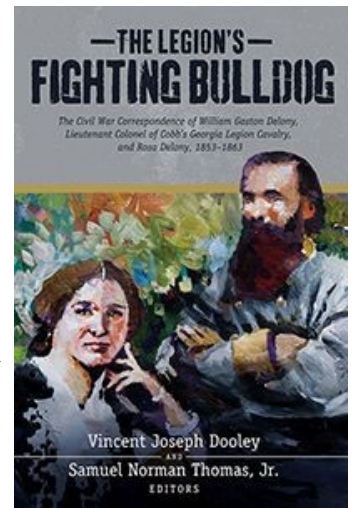
Vincent Joseph Dooley



Samuel Norman Thomas, Jr.

On June 25 (time and place to be announced), Vince Dooley and Sam Thomas will speak on a book they have co-edited, *The Legion's Fighting Bulldog: The Civil War Correspondence of William Gaston Deloney, Lieutenant Colonel of Cobb's Georgia Legion Cavalry, and Rosa Deloney, 1853-1863*.

According to Dooley and Thomas, Lieutenant Colonel Deloney possessed three admirable attributes: "commanding presence, bull dog courage, and superb generalship." The correspondence between Deloney and his wife relays the story of a young man, a UGA graduate on the cusp of a promising law career in the 1850s, who by the end of the decade comes to realize that his way of life, and that of his neighbors, is about to change forever. Their letters go on to show what soldiers thought and felt during the Civil War, and what their families went through, both on the battlefield and at home. Make a note of this exciting program on your calendars!



A NOTE OF APPRECIATION TO TWO RESIGNING BOARD MEMBERS

First, a thank you to **Theresa Flynn**. Every event needs someone to be in charge, and Theresa as Vice President did an outstanding job of organizing, coordinating and overseeing AHS events, making sure everyone did their part and that everything ran smoothly. Although she will continue to co-edit the *Athens Historian*, she has stepped down from our Board and is taking some well-deserved personal time to work on a research project of her own and we hope, enjoying her cats, cooking, and travel.

And a thank you also to **Evelyn Reece**, who is leaving the Board due to her very full schedule as director/curator of the Welcome Center and as a member of the Preservation Commission. In spite of her many commitments, she and her husband Greg were always at our programs bearing delicious treats and containers of Rainman water. Evelyn also was (and hopefully will continue to be) an experienced advisor to us, and an important supporter of our projects

AHS HULL AWARD GIVEN TO MARY BONDURANT WARREN

On January 15, 2017, then-AHS vice president Theresa Flynn (left) and AHS President Mike Kitchens (right) presented Mary Bondurant Warren (center) with the Athens Historical Society's Augustus Longstreet Hull Award in recognition of her many, many contributions to knowledge of Athens' history. Her bibliography, included in the event brochure, was seven pages long—and in small type!

There were three speakers in the program. Eve Mayes, Mary's daughter, who created a Power Point show for the occasion, talked about how proud she and her two sisters (Amy and Lisa) and two brothers (Mark, who was there, and Stuart) were of their mother, and of how they helped her, assembly-line fashion, with her genealogical publications when they were young. Charlotte Marshall gave a lovely overview of Mary Warren as an educator and friend, and Dale Couch let everyone

know what a wonderful thing it was to work with Mary as a professional archivist. At the end, Tommy Timberlake, on behalf of himself and his parents, Drs. Richard and Hildegard Timberlake, presented her with an orchid and thanked her for her research into Athens artist Mary Jett Franklin's work. The occasion truly gave note to Mary Warren's deep importance to history. She later wrote to us: "I'm still glowing from the pleasure of ... the awards ceremony. ... There seems to be a Renaissance in interest in Athens history. ... Through the Society's programs we can fan these flames."

We thank Betty Alice Fowler and the Georgia Museum of Art for providing the lovely setting for this program and reception and to Charlotte Marshall for being, as Theresa Flynn put it, "this event's Guardian Angel." We are also grateful to Van Burns from the Athens-Clarke County Library, who recorded the program. His video has been placed on the library's YouTube page and can be viewed on the AHS Facebook page as well. We are also grateful to Valerie Bell, Director of Athens Regional Library System, for letting us use the public library's equipment to film our event and for always being supportive of AHS.



Mike Kitchens and Theresa Flynn present Hull Award to Mary Bondurant Warren.



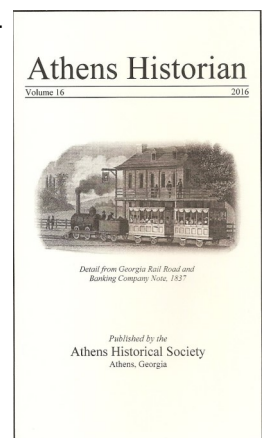
Tommy Timberlake presents Mary Warren with an orchid.

Timberlake, on behalf of himself and his parents, Drs. Richard and Hildegard

THE ATHENS HISTORIAN: CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS BY JULY 15

The Athens Historical Society regularly publishes the *Athens Historian*, a journal featuring articles on Athens area history and other items of historical interest to Athens residents. Readers are invited to send for possible publication original articles, old letters, documents, memoirs, and photographs to Larry Dendy (ldendy@uga.edu) under the subject line *Athens Historian*. Or you can mail items to AHS, P. O. Box 7745, Athens, GA 30604-7745. Please send the articles as a double-spaced Word document with references to materials used, if any—preferably as footnotes in Chicago style.

We have no specific rules about length, but we like a mix of long and short articles. (Articles in the 2016 *Historian* ranged from approximately 2000 words to 4200 words). Illustrations are encouraged. The deadline for submissions to this year's *Historian* is July 15. Larry Dendy (email given above), Theresa Flynn (th.flynn@gmail.com), and Pat McAlexander (patmcalex@gmail.com), will again serve as co-editors. They will select and edit the materials to be included. Contact any of the editors if you have questions.

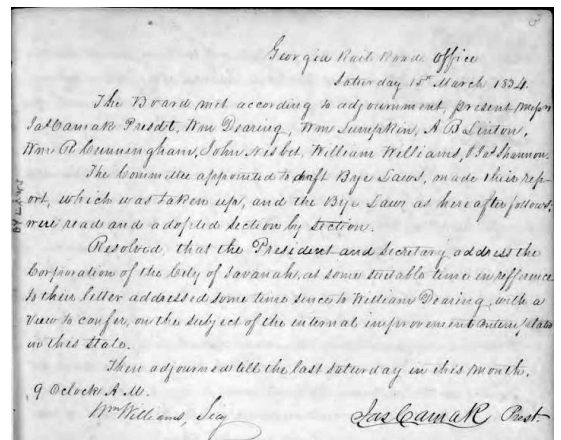


GEORGIA RAIL ROAD RECORDS

DIGITIZATION PROJECT

In keeping with its mission to expand and share the knowledge of Athens history—and in this case, Georgia history as well, the Athens Historical Society has funded the digitization of the records of the Georgia Rail Road (spelled as two separate words at the time) which are stored at the Reese Library at Augusta University. The CD with the digitized images has been delivered to the Reese Library; it will be posted on their website. Carol Waggoner-Appleton from Augusta University has sent us the link : <http://guides.augusta.edu/SavingVoices>. Soon Digital Library of Georgia will also post a link, and the online records will be readily available to researchers.

The records play a key role in providing details of the growth and development of Athens, Augusta, and the state. Well-known local historian Gary Doster, whose article on the railroads (Rail Roads!) was published in our 2016 *Athens Historian*, proposed the project. Thanks to Beth Whitlock for guiding it to completion.



Digitized page from Georgia Rail Road records, showing minutes of the Board meeting on March 15, 1834. They were written by William Williams, secretary, and signed by James Camak, President. Note the beautiful cursive writing, which is becoming a lost art.

PRINCETON MILL: A SNEAK PEEK AT THE 2017 *HISTORIAN*



Princeton Mill, Gothic ruins behind a modern-day residential development

One in-progress article for the 2017 *Athens Historian* is by new AHS member David Rush on the Princeton Mill, once located off S. Lumpkin Street near the Macon Highway. The mill burned in 1973 and was abandoned. But David, who has recently moved into the development built on the site, learned about the adjoining ruins and is doing research on the mill's history and the people who worked there.

AHS Historian Steven Brown writes, "I'm delighted there are still ruins of Princeton Mill. I scoped it out nearly 40 years ago, before the new development was built on top of it, and I was afraid that the ruins had been removed for the yards [of the new homes]. I drove back there a few weeks ago and could not spot

any ruins between the houses. Forty years ago there were large sections of wall standing - and you could still see a turbine in its housing." It turns out those ruins and the turbine are still there, hidden behind houses, reclaimed by nature, and virtually inaccessible most of the year.

Early this spring, David took three AHS Board members—Steven Brown, Pat McAlexander, and Beth Whitlock—back to see the brick walls, rising like Gothic abbey ruins out of thickly wooded land along the Middle Oconee. They also walked along the sandy bed of the "race," the channel along which water from the Middle Oconee River flowed to power the mill. Steven Brown told us that 40 years ago, "Along with the mill ruins, the company store was still standing . . . and along the old roadbed down to the river were the brick steps to the mill houses, mute witnesses to the community that once bustled there."

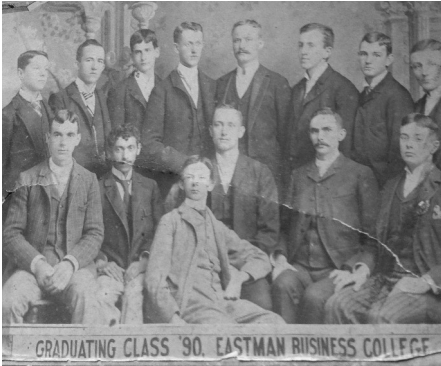


David Rush, Steven Brown, Beth Whitlock, and Pat McAlexander were following the Princeton Mill "race" in the ravine behind the ruins when they were stopped by fallen trees.

UPDATE: THE TORCH BOY GROWS UP; MORE ON ATHENS'

PIONEER FIRE COMPANIES

The little “torch boy” James Barrow pictured in the last *Athens Stroller* grew up, attended the Eastman Business College in Rochester, N.Y., (class of 1890) and returned to Athens to become its City Manager, father of the well-known and loved Judge James Barrow, and grandfather of AHS members Jim and John Barrow. Below are pictures of this former torch boy, courtesy Jim and Sallyanne Barrow.



James Barrow:... in the front row of his graduating class at Eastman College, 1890



...as a dapper young adult with top hat



...as Athens City Manager (center) with two unidentified young men.

In regard to the Pioneer Fire Companies also pictured and described in the Winter 2016 *Athens Stroller*, Gary Doster directed us to an article in the 2004 *Athens Historian*, “The Fire Companies of Athens.” (pp.1-20) The author of the article is unknown, but it was presented to the October 2004 AHS meeting by then-Chief Wendall Faulkner. The article gives a number of interesting additional facts about firefighting in Athens in the last half of the nineteenth century: that the Pioneer Hook and Ladder Company was housed in a building on the southwest corner of Market (now Washington) and Jackson Streets, that the Pioneer Reel Company (pictured on the back page of the *Stroller*) shared that Station, and that Athens fire companies would compete with each other in such functions as setting up ladders or being the first to get water flowing. The fire companies also competed in contests with companies from around the state. The article quotes an eerily-modern sounding statement: “Pioneer’s colors never trailed in defeat, and if they did, it wasn’t fair.” (p. 7). In the picture of the Pioneer Reel Company on the back page of *The Stroller*, members are dressed in their competition garb of short pants, shirts, and thigh-high gartered hose.

The article gives other interesting details. Athens fire companies stabled their own horses, training them to walk around to the front of the engines when the stall doors were opened. Harnesses were suspended from the ceiling and could quickly be lowered onto the horses and secured. The bells of the downtown churches would signal the alarm for fires. During a fire, “Anyone who could walk, run, or crawl managed to get to the scene in order to watch the [action].” After all, there were no movies or television in those days.



His hat is still preserved in pristine condition by his grandson Jim Barrow and his wife Sallyanne.

NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS AS OF MARCH 1, 2017 (IF YOUR NAME IS NOT HERE, YOU NEED TO RENEW.)

Please remember: As announced in the last *Stroller*, in the letter to members from Membership Chair Svea Bogue, and in a recent email, **March 1** has been established as the new common renewal deadline in order to simplify our record-keeping—and yours. Below is a list of members who have joined or renewed **between October 1 and March 1**, taking advantage of the special offer allowing past lower dues rates during that period for a 2017-2018 membership. Many thanks to all of those listed below for their support! If we have omitted anyone who should be on this list or made any other errors, please contact *Stroller* editor Pat McAlexander at patmcalex@gmail.com.

This issue of the *Stroller* is being sent not only to the members listed below but also to those whose membership under this new March 1 renewal system has expired. A membership form and the new 2017 dues rates are on the last page of this newsletter. **Please, if you have not already done so, join or re-join us for the March 1, 2017 to March 1, 2018 year!**

PATRON LEVEL

Athens Welcome Center
Mark and Helen Costantino
Wilucia Green
Thomas and Gisela Gresham
Doug Hellman and Theresa Flynn
Hubert and Patricia McAlexander
Carlton N. Mell
Mary W. Quinn
Arv and Melissa Vasenden
W. Thomas Wilfong

SUPPORTING LEVEL

Brian Akins
John Barrow
Ron and Svea Bogue
Charles Bennet Bonner
Tom and Nancy Bowen
Charles and Laura Carter
Harvey and Ann Cabaniss
Larry B. Dendy
Anna B. Dyer
Maxine and Kenneth Easom
Billy and Cindy Galt
Kelly Girtz
Jack and Beverly King
Albert H. and Mary Christine Santora
Lothar and Lucy Tresp
Hubert H. Whitlow, Jr.
John and Patty Whitehead

FAMILY LEVEL

Dan and Judy Aldridge
Bob and Nancy Bostrom
Ruth W. and Lee W. Curtis
C.W. Dobson, Jr.
Gary and Faye Doster
Lee Epting
Wallace and Charlotte Eberhart

Thomas Few and Marion C. Michael
Susan and Richard Field
Delois Gainey
Jane and Sally Giles
Tom and Virginia Green
Bob and Jodie Guy
Gilbert and Margaret Donnell Head
Al and Conoly Hester
Peter and Susan Hodgson
John and Jane Inscoc
Frances H. Johnson
Fran and Richard Lane
Kip and Jane Mann
Harry and Celeste Neely
Janet and Alex Patterson
Grady Thrasher and Kathy Prescott
Karen Redwine
George W. and Nancy I. Smith
James and Sandra Smith
Kenneth and Lisa Storey
Leonard Sapera
Joel and Anne Stowers
J.B. Tanner
Emory and Frances T. Thomas
Hildegard and Richard Timberlake
Tommy Timberlake
Ludwig and Ursula Uhlig
Beth Whitlock and Steven Brown
Ann and Tom Wilkins

INDIVIDUAL LEVEL

Allen County Public Library - Genealogy Periodicals
Mary Abbe
Rufus Adair
Diane Adams
Peggy Allen
Mary Overton Beall
Betsy Bean

Naomi Braff
 Leona Meriwether Benkoski
 Ann Darby
 Heidi Davison
 Rosalyn DeVorse
 Laura Driscoll
 Joseph Todd Emily
 Peggy Galis
 Marc A. Galvin
 Max M. Gilstrap
 Janet Parker Gregory
 Dottie Harnish
 Amanda Holmes
 Mary D. Hutcherson

Tom Jackson
 Claire James
 Thomas H. Keene
 Judy E Kitchens
 Mike Kitchens
 Ted LaMontagne
 Rufus Emory Lavender
 Barbara McLaughlin
 Jane Marston
 Judy Masters
 Leslie Morris
 Elaine Collier Neal
 John Nicholson
 Matthew Payne

Elizabeth Randolph
 Mark Reinberger
 Marsha Rosenthal
 John David Rush
 Lee Shearer
 Valdon Smith
 Angela Stanley
 Peggy Suddreth
 W. Rhett Tanner
 Frank Thornburg
 R. E. Thornton
 D. Davant Turner
 Frank Uhler
 Mary Bondurant Warren

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Through lectures, rambles, community support, and publications, the **Athens Historical Society** brings together folks with a living interest in Athens' past. We invite you to join us. To join, 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


NAME(S): _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ EMAIL(S): _____

NEW ____ OR RENEWING ____ MEMBER (PLEASE CHECK ONE)

YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS IS REQUESTED FOR ONLINE MAILINGS, & UPDATES

<p>MEMBERSHIP LEVEL FOR 2017. PLEASE CHECK ONE AND ENCLOSE APPROPRIATE AMOUNT): ____ STUDENT: \$20 ____ INDIVIDUAL: \$35 ____ FAMILY: \$50 ____ SUPPORTING: \$75 ____ PATRON: \$100 ____ BUSINESS: \$250</p>	 ATHENS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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AHS MERCHANDISE

Our merchandise (books, notecards, maps, the video *The Presence of the Past*) can no longer be ordered from the AHS website. AHS merchandise is sold at our programs. Some AHS merchandise can also be found for sale at Avid at Five Points, 1662 S. Lumpkin Street; The Clubhouse, 157 College Avenue; Empire South at 166 West Clayton, the Athens Welcome Center, 280 E. Dougherty Street; and the T.R.R. Cobb House, 175 Hill Street.

Athens Stroller

Editor: Pat McAlexander Proofreader: Larry Dendy Formatter: Beth Whitlock

email: athenshistorical@gmail.com

Website: www.athenshistorical.org

Facebook page: Athens Historical Society (Athens, GA)