

### THE ATHENS

## STROLLER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ATHENS HISTORICAL SOCIETY WINTER 2017



# AHS ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 15, 2:00 P.M.; MARY BONDURANT WARREN TO RECEIVE THE HULL AWARD



Hull Award Presentation. At the Athens Historical Society's program on January 15 at 2:00 p.m. (note the change from the usual time) in the Georgia Museum of Art, the Athens Historical Society will present our prestigious Augustus Longstreet Hull Award. This award, in the form of an en-

graved crystal book, is given to an individual who has contributed significantly to knowledge of Athens history and to the promotion and advancement of AHS.

The recipient of the award, as announced at our holiday party, will be Mary Claire Bondurant Warren. She is a founding member of the modern AHS and has been an active member in most years since its inception. She served as president in 1962, 1997, and 1998 and as editor of the first volume of *Papers* of the Athens Historical Society, the precursor of our annual journal, *The Athens Historian*. She is still active, having given a fascinating presentation on Mary Jett Franklin at our August 2016 program. (This program, in fact, led to AHS members Richard and Hildegard Timberlake and their son Tim funding the restoration of two more of Franklin's paintings.) Mary Bondurant Warren has also contributed greatly to knowledge of Georgia's history and genealogy. Our program will include presentations by Charlotte Marshall, Dale Couch, Mary's daughter Eve Mayes, and others about Mary Warren's life and contributions.

After the program, there will be a catered reception to honor Mary Warren. AHS merchandise will be for sale before and after the meeting, and you may join or renew your membership at the Membership Table before the prices rise! See stories on our merchandise and—very important!—new membership policies in the following pages.

AHS Business Meeting. Before the presentation of the Hull award, there will be a brief business meeting. Members will vote on the slate of nominees to fill openings on the AHS Board from January 2017 to January 2019. Three Board members' terms are up this year—those of Larry



Dendy, Pat McAlexander, and Beth Whitlock. All three have been nominated to fill these slots for another two-year term. Members will also vote to confirm Harry Neely as a Board member for a second year. In accordance with the Bylaws policy on filling a vacancy created by the death of an officer, the Board voted last spring that Harry fill Kevin Garrison's position as treasurer of the Society until the next annual meeting. (See these nominees' biographies pp. 2-3.)

Finally, members will vote on a proposed change to the Bylaws: that instead of designating that there be ten to twelve Board members, the Bylaws will designate that there be ten to fifteen members. As Theresa Flynn has already written to AHS members, if this change is approved, a slate of up to three new Board members will be selected by a nominating committee and voted on at a special AHS meeting before our spring (May or June) program. Until then, the nominees on the slate may act as nonvoting members of the Board.

If any of you have suggestions for Board nominees or are interested in volunteering to help the Athens Historical Society, especially in areas such as marketing, merchandise, public relations, membership recruitment, and media outreach, email us at AthensHistorical@gmail.com or contact any Board member.

The Athens Historical Society thanks the Georgia Museum of Art for their gracious assistance in hosting our Annual Meeting.

### THE GAVEL REPORT: MAINTAINING A VIBRANT AHS

### By Mike Kitchens, AHS President

Any organization, particularly a non-profit group, must grow to maintain its vitality. Over the past several years, the Society has experienced a reduction in its membership rolls. Some of these losses are the result of members who have moved away from Athens, become physically unable to continue attending our programs, or have simply forgotten to renew their memberships. Regardless of the reason, membership losses have a direct impact on our ability to offer programs and benefits to you.



Mike Kitchens

One might think that a smaller AHS would have reduced attendance at society programs in equal proportion to member rolls. However, over the last year or so, attendance at AHS programs has been larger, on a consistent basis, than at any time in the last five years. Indeed, the increased attendance at these programs is a testament to the quality of the speakers and the content of their talks.

The officers and Board of Directors for the AHS are working to bolster our rolls with new members. Exciting programs are in the works which could have a significant impact on our membership and community outreach goals. However, no program, membership drive or community outreach is as effective as our members reaching out to their own friends and family to encourage them to join. Your testimonial to those in your sphere of influence about what you have learned at our programs, whom you met at our functions, and how the AHS promotes our collective history is more important to your friends than any flier or outreach the AHS could offer.

Please encourage your friends and family to join the AHS. Invite them to join you at our next program or event. Your friends will thank you, and you will have helped the AHS continue to thrive for years to come.

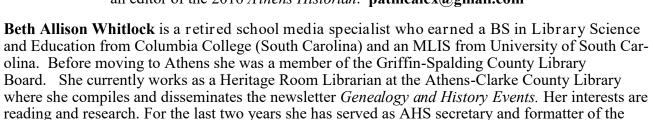
### **Biographies of Board Nominees**

Larry Dendy graduated from UGA with a journalism degree in 1965, then served in the Peace Corps in India and worked as a newspaper reporter and editor in Winston-Salem, NC, and Tifton, GA. In 1972, he joined the

UGA Office of Public Affairs where he worked for 37 years as a writer, editor, News Service director, speechwriter and special projects manager. After retiring in 2009, he wrote a book, Through the Arch: An Illustrated Guide to the University of Georgia Campus, published in 2013 by the UGA Press. The book won the Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation's 2014 Preservation Award for Outstanding Publication or Program. He has served as chair of the 2016 Athens Historian's editorial committee and proofreader of the Athens Stroller. ldendy@uga.edu



**Pat McAlexander** earned a bachelor's degree from the State University of New York at Albany, a master's from Columbia University, and a doctorate from The University of Wisconsin, Madison, all in English. As a professor in UGA's Division of Academic Enhancement, she taught courses in grammar, business writing, and composition. She has published articles on teaching and American literature and co-authored three books. Since her retirement, Pat has become active in OLLI@UGA, serving as editor of its newsletter since 2009. She is also interested in photography, local travel, and Athens history. She has served as editor of the Athens Stroller for two years and as an editor of the 2016 Athens Historian. patmcalex@gmail.com





Athens Stroller. whitlocklibrarian@gmail.com



Harry Neely was born and raised near Pittsburgh, PA. He has finance degrees from Johns Hopkins University and the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business. Harry is also a Vietnam veteran having served as a military intelligence agent. He has held financial positions at two regional banks in Baltimore and Richmond. Harry was also treasurer of a Fortune 500 company headquartered in Cincinnati. In 2000 he and his wife Celeste purchased the Nicholson House Bed and Breakfast in Athens (built in 1820, originally known as Gum Springs Inn) and successfully operated it for eight years. athensfred@aol.com

#### Other AHS Board members

Mike Kitchens, President (mwkit1620@live.com) Evelyn Reece (reecepreservation@gmail.com)

Theresa Flynn, Vice President (th.flynn@gmail.com)

Janine Duncan(janined706@gmail.com)

Svea Bogue, Membership Chair (sveabogue@gmail.com) Steven Brown, Historian (sabrown@uga.edu)

Sam Thomas (sthomas@trrcobbhouse.org)

Angela Stanley (angelaspitzerstanley@gmail.com)

### **HISTORY NOTES**

Athens Historian Mailed. The 2016 Athens Historian, our organization's annual journal of historical articles and images, should recently have arrived in members' mailboxes. Kudos to Larry Dendy, editorial chair; co-editors Theresa Flynn and Pat McAlexander; and formatter/researcher Eve Mayes for their work on this edition.

AHS member Dr. John Inscoe Honored. On October 21, 2016, the Georgia Historical Society presented the John Macpherson Berrien Award for lifetime achievement to Dr. John C. Inscoe, the Albert B. Saye Professor of History and University Professor at the University of Georgia. Dr. Inscoe has taught at the University of Georgia for 32 years. He has authored several books, and edited the on-line *New Georgia Encyclopedia* since 1999 and the *Georgia Historical Quarterly* for eleven years. He served as secretary-treasurer of the Southern Historical Association from 2000 through 2014.

### MARCH 25th "RAMBLE" AT SANDY CREEK NATURE CENTER

On March 25, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., Steven Brown and Beth Whitlock will present a ramble in the extensive ruins of the Georgia Brick Company on the grounds of Clarke County's Sandy Creek Nature Center. Tour the ruins with Beth and Steven, see a recently discovered series of 22 professional photographs from 1911 which show how the factory looked in its prime—and learn how these images led to the discovery that a Mrs. Frances Shaw of Chicago may have conned the Athens and Atlanta business communities.

More details to come on this and on our spring program (in May or June).



Athens Historian

Georgia Brick Company's kiln and employees at Sandy Creek c. 1911 (Courtesy of Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library)

### PAST AHS EVENTS

October 2016 program: "UGA and Slavery"



Dr. Scott Nesbit (left) and John Barrow confer after the program.

UGA assistant professor Scott Nesbit and his teaching assistant, graduate student Audrey Thomas, presented an informative program on their ongoing research on the role of slavery at the University of Georgia. Thomas told us about T.R.R. Cobb's defense of the institution of slavery. Nesbit told us how his classes have been building a not-yet-public website on the history of slavery at UGA, with digital images of historical documents and objects displayed as well as narrative and facts.



At the reception, Betsy Bean (editor of *Boom*!), Naomi Braff, and speaker Audrey Thomas.

Showing slides of the current UGA/Athens landscape, which has a memorial to Confederate dead on Broad Street and an historical marker, erected in 1991, near the Arch, that refers to the "War for Southern Independence," he pointed out that there is no acknowledgement or monument commemorating the "enslaved people" who had been rented from their owners to work on the campus during the pre-war years.

After the program the speakers mingled with attendees at a reception in the hall outside the auditorium and further discussed the subject. AHS had on display there a poster of copies of bills-of—sale of slaves that involved nineteenth-century UGA administrators and faculty. The original bills were from the collection of Gary Doster. *Athens Banner-Herald* education reporter Lee Shearer attended the talk. His article "UGA should talk about slavery's role here, researcher says," was published on the front page of the paper the following week. The article can be accessed online at onlineathers.com.

### **November 13 Ramble**

# For a complete album of pictures of this ramble, see our Facebook page (Athens Historical Society, Athens GA). And please "like" our page!



The Russell family home seen from the road.



Nannette shows a pile of handmade quilts still to be sorted and distributed among family members.



The Senator's 1960s Chrysler New Yorker



AHS members look at the Russells' old, hand-made dining room table. Nannette said as a child, she always saw the table beautifully set with china, crystal, and flowers, so had no idea it was just a humble farm table beneath the splendor. (photos by Pat McAlexander)

Most of us are familiar with the Richard B. Russell Special Collections Library, which houses Hargrett and is named after Richard B. Russell, Jr., Georgia governor 1931-33 and U.S. Senator 1933-1971. There we can see a replica of Russell's impressive Washington D.C. office when he was a Senator. On Sunday, November 13, members of AHS got a chance to see another side of his life, with a special tour of his childhood home near Winder—where he grew up as the oldest of thirteen surviving children. This is also the place he called home most of his life; Russell, who never married, lived in a hotel while in Washington and in later years in a dwelling on the Winder property. Our hostess for this tour was Nannette Kallestad, the Senator's great-niece. Her father was Richard B. Russell III.

Russell family descendants are collaborating in renovating the clapboard farmhouse built in 1912 by the Senator's parents, Richard B. Russell, Sr. (1861-1938) and Ina Dillard (1868-1953). The descendants share the expenses and hold family reunions there. The house is filled with memorabilia, both of the Senator's career and of the family's early-twentieth century life. On the grounds there is a smokehouse and an outhouse, as well as a garage housing the Senator's black 1960s-era Chrysler New Yorker. At the end of the visit, some of us walked on a dirt road through the beautiful wooded estate to the family cemetery.

Many thanks to Nannette for a most enjoyable, informative tour and the delicious refreshments she provided—and to Theresa Flynn for arranging this event.

### Holiday Party at the T.R.R. Cobb House



Mary Bondurant Warren and granddaughter Angelina Nicholson, who had flown in from Salt Lake City for a surprise visit, as the Hull Award winner is announced.



More than 70 AHS members attended our holiday party for socializing, excellent food from Big City Bread, punch made by Beth Whitlock, and wine poured by master AHS bartender Doug Hellman. The announcement that Mary Bondurant Warren will be the recipient of the 2017 Hull Award at the January annual meeting was met with applause and cheers. It was, in short, one of those parties that put everyone in a happy holiday mood.



Holiday food and drink





**Socializing** 



Merchandise display at the AHS Holiday Party

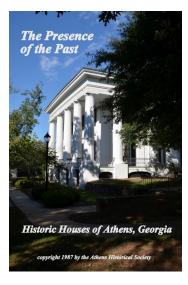
### **AHS MERCHANDISE**

Look for some of this merchandise at Avid at Five Points, 1662 S. Lumpkin Street; The Clubhouse, 157 College Avenue; Empire South 166 West Clayton; the Athens Welcome Center, 280 E. Dougherty Street; and the T.R.R. Cobb House, 175 Hill Street. Or order merchandise from the AHS website: www.athenshistorical.org. Prices may vary; any prices listed below are AHS prices.

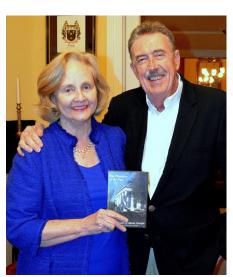
Books: Al Hester, *Putting on Blue* (on sale for \$10); Gary Doster, *A Postcard History of Athens* (no longer available except at Cobb House); Charlotte Thomas Marshall, *Oconee Hill Cemetery* (\$55 and \$12.50 shipping).

Notecards: (lithograph of the UGA campus c, 1854; George Cooke's *View of Athens from Carr's Hill* (1845), or a combination of these two. Packages of eight. \$20. Map of Athens note cards, \$12.

NEW: DVD of the Athens Historical Society's 1987 video *The Presence of the Past*— 23 minutes, features 22 classic Athens houses; written and narrated by Ron Bogue—\$12.



AHS new DVD of 1987 video



Ron and Svea Bogue, who funded the production of the new DVD.



NEW: Suitable for Framing: 1909 Birds Eye View of Athens. 20" x 30". \$35. Below is an article about the genesis of the Birds Eye View maps. The original title of this drawing had no apostrophe. (Note: Empire South has some framed copies available for \$125)

### ATHENS ON A HIGHER PLANE: THE 1909 BIRDS EYE VIEW

Steven Brown

On August 8, 1909, Ben Epps and Zumpt Huff coaxed their Epps-Huff III airplane, the first monoplane to fly in the United States, into the skies of Athens. That same year was momentous for aerial Athens for an artistic reason – it received its first known "birds eye view" depiction.

From the mid-nineteenth century to the early twentieth a mark of civic attainment and prestige for a city or town was the creation of a printed birds eye view. Sometimes printed in simple black and white, at other times in full color, these panoramic views from the air proudly showed rising business districts, bustling rivers, bold new railways, and expanding streets bristling with new homes. Panorama companies competed to offer the first views of both huge cities and small boomtowns as the nation grew. Many were offered in large format – St. Louis even received a multipage atlas treatment that almost allows the reader to walk its streets of 1875.<sup>2</sup>

Athens received its aerial tribute late. In 1909 Fowler & Downs of Morrisville, Pennsylvania, issued *The Birds Eye View of Athens, Georgia* that is held in the Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library. It is fairly modest in size and printed in dull greenish-grey tones. It lacks the crispness of the traditional panorama because it was printed using the newer offset printing process that did not demand the same degree of expensive artistry as the traditional lithograph.<sup>3</sup>

The head of the company, Thaddeus Mortimer Fowler (1842-1922), was an early and prolific practitioner of the art form, working largely in the northern states of the East. In 1908-1909 his firm tried to expand business into the South. Hargrett holds the one listed library copy of the Athens view and one other known copy is held by a private collector. The Library of Congress holds Fowler views of Cordele, Ocilla, and Fitzgerald. At a recent historical tour in Sparta, Georgia, a photocopy of a Fowler & Downs view of that city was sold. Overall, the survival rate of views does not suggest that Georgia was a successful venture for the firm.

Unlike panoramic views of Athens taken from tall places, the 1909 perspective is from far, far above Athens' two tall monuments of that time, the elegant Southern Mutual skyscraper and the pragmatic water tank behind the city hall. One might suspect the use of a balloon, as was used in 1897 panoramas of Athens, but the process of making this view was much more abstract and artistic.<sup>4</sup>

Having determined the point of perspective, the panoramic artist—in this case Albert E. Downs—would walk the streets of the city for days, making sketches of all building that should be seen in his imagined

view. He then would use the drawings, a map of the city, and his well-trained imagination to create his grand conception of what a bird would see from his fixed point in the sky. Those raw sketches of Athens would be of enormous interest today, but their location is unknown, and it's all too likely they were used to kindle stoves in the Morrisville studio once the view was completed.

With all this careful planning and imagination, the details in the completed view can be delightfully accurate. Landmarks of today's city are clearly visible, and long-lost features are vivid. On the University of Georgia campus it is easy to spot buildings such as the



Chapel and the Holmes-Hunter Academic Building. The Chapel, however, still sports its bell tower, removed in 1913, and Professor Leon Charbonnier's weather instrument shack can be seen atop Moore College.

In spite of the meticulous work of Downs, mistakes crept in. For example, the back wing of the 1905 Library Building, today's Administration Building, is shown as off center. In the greatest mistake on campus, Downs completely forgot to include Candler Hall, built in 1901. While a few vehicles are to be seen in the streets and a train surges along the Oconee, the campus and the city seem oddly deserted. Perhaps everyone is on the train returning from an away football game?

Also unseen in this view, two young men are tinkering with a flying machine inside a garage shown on Washington Street towards the center of the print. Within a few years the progress of aviation and aerial photography would make the painstaking sketching and imaginative rendering of the traditional birds eye view a lost art. According to the Library of Congress, Thaddeus Fowler, at the age of 76, tried to borrow a bit of modernity for a 1918 drawing of Allentown, Pennsylvania, by sketching in imagined airplanes and an airship. With the anxiety of the ongoing First World War, this innocent nod to technology was enough to provoke Allentown citizens to accuse poor Fowler of being a German spy and jail him overnight until the cold light of morning restored their senses.

The Athens Historical Society is pleased to offer reproductions of Fowler and Downs's 1909 *The Birds Eye View of Athens, Georgia*, courtesy of the Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library of the University of Georgia, to those who wish to imaginatively walk the 1909 streets of Athens at their leisure. On heavy paper suitable for framing, the print measures 20"x30", a slight reduction from the original. The public is also invited, of course, to examine the original at the Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library at the University of Georgia. Those who want to learn more about panoramas and see examples from other cities may wish to consult the source of information for this article, the Library of Congress website http://www.loc.gov/collections/panoramic-maps/about-this-collection/. This site was accessed in November 2016.

Aldridge, Dan A. To Lasso the Clouds: The Beginning of Aviation in Georgia. Macon. Mercer University Press, 2016, pp 45-58.

All information on view-making and Thaddeus Fowler in this article came from the essays found at the excellent Library of Congress site mentioned in the last paragraph, http://www.loc.gov/collections/panoramic-maps/about-this-collection/, accessed November, 2016. Many samples of views are included, including the 110 plate tour of St. Louis.

Birds Eye View of Athens, Georgia, 1909. Morrisville, PA, Fowler & Downs, 1909. Rare Map hmap1909b5, Hargrett Rare Book & Manuscript Library, University of Georgia.

Prints of the four 1897 balloon views of Athens are on display in the house museum portion of the Lyndon House Arts Center in Athens/Clarke Georgia. The prints are reproduced in Gary Doster's *Postcard History of Athens, Georgia*, Athens, Athens Historical Society, 2002, pp. vi, viii, x, and xii.

### **CHANGE IN AHS DUES**

We are trying to balance our budget, using only dues and current merchandise sales for operating expenses, and preserving our savings to fund research/publication projects and the preservation of historical materials. To do so, we are making two changes. First, we are **raising our dues**, because in comparison with most other historical societies in the Southeast, ours are disproportionately low. Also we have added a new "student" category. The membership rates and categories will be as follows as of March 1, 2017:

\$20 student \$35 individual \$50 family \$75 supporting \$150 patron

Second, we are changing the **timing** of membership renewals. So that members know when their membership expires and can renew in a timely fashion, we are moving from the anniversary date cycle (in which dues were renewable a year from the date you joined) to a **common** renewal period—**the month of March**. To get us all on that cycle, the memberships of those who join or renew at the old rates between October 1, 2016, and February 28, 2017, will not expire until March 1, 2018. Thus some of you will receive bonus months.

We encourage you ALL to join or renew before March 1 to take advantage of the old rates and perhaps bonus months. Your dues and donations help us with our goal of expanding and sharing Athens history! AHS is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization.

### MEMBERSHIP FORM You can join or renew three ways:

ONLINE. Go to https://www.athenshistorical.org and pay with a credit card.

IN PERSON. Join at the membership table at our next program with check or credit card.

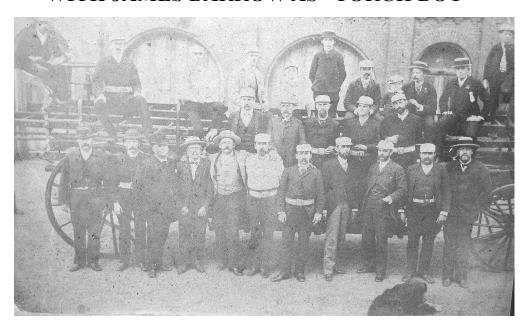
BY MAIL. Fill out the form below and mail it with your check payable to:

## P.O. Box 7745 Athens GA, 30604-7745.

Name(s): Mailing Address:				
Telephone:		New o	<del></del>	
	An email address	s is requested for online mai	ailings and updates.	
MEMBERSHIP LEV tron \$100; Business \$2	· '	circle your chosen level): 1	: Individual \$20; Family \$30; Supporting \$50; Pa-	
Your annual membership amount:		\$		
Please consider an additional contribution:		<b>\$</b> Total:	: \$	

### HISTORICAL FOUND/SHARED:

# PORTRAIT OF ATHENS' PIONEER HOOK AND LADDER COMPANY #1, WITH JAMES BARROW AS "TORCH BOY"



Jim and Sallyanne Barrow have shared with us the original framed portrait of the Pioneer Hook and Ladder Company #1, Athens' second fire company, photographed by J.S. Milner of Athens (above). The company was formed in 1860 with H. Beusse as captain. The fire company members were all volunteers, selected through rigid testing procedures. In the back row of the portrait are the "torch boys," who, as the name suggests, held torches at fires to illuminate the equipment and area, when needed, for the fire fighters. One of them—the 6<sup>th</sup> from the right—was Jim and John Barrow's grandfather James Barrow (1872-1937). He looks to be in his pre-teens, which would date the photo at about 1884.

The fire engine was pulled by horses to the scene of the fire. (Motorized fire engines did not become commonplace until the early 20th century.) Water was drawn by a hand pump

from cisterns located for that purpose in the fire company's designated area. **James Barrow** The Barrows also showed us a pewter megaphone that was used in directing the men when they were fighting fires. The megaphone has amazing carrying power; when Jim Barrow demonstrated its use, it could have been electronic amplification.

At the bottom of the photo is a numbered list of names of the firemen in the photo: 1. G.W. Mason, Chief of Department 2. W.F. Dorsey, Assistant Chief of Department 3. E.R. Hodgson 4. H. Beusse, Ex-chief and Captain. 5. C.G. Talmadge, President 6. Jas. A. Grant, Captain 7. J.Y. Carithers, 1st Foreman 8. George McDorman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Foreman 9. C.A. Vonderlith, Secretary 10. H.H. Linton, Treasurer 11. Dr. S.C. Benedict, Surgeon 12. C.D. Flanigan 13. R.R.

Hopkins 14. W.C. Ash 15. R.B. Russell 16. G.W. Rush 17. J.H. Hull 18. J.T. Jones 19. W.L. Henley 20. H.L. Garebold 21. H.N. Willcox 22. H.W. Beusse. The Torch Boys: 23. Frank Carithers 24. Harry Grant 25. Jim Barrow 26. Ben Steedly 27. Keith Conway, the Mascot (He is the small boy being held.) The dog is not listed!

Tiny matching numbers, now virtually invisible, are written on the figures in the photo; Jim Barrow found them when looking at the photograph through a jeweler's glass. H. Beusse, the founding captain, is the fourth from the left in the front row. H.W. Beusse, probably his son, is the second from the right on the top row, next to the man holding the little boy mascot. Perhaps some of our readers can tell us about others in the photo.



This undated picture is of the Pioneer Reel Company No. 5. They worked with the Pioneer Hook & Ladder Company handling the hoses and pumps. (Courtesy of the Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library)

Do you have stories and/or souvenirs of an Athens family to share with the *Athens Stroller*? Or do you have questions about Athens history? We'd love to hear from you. Contact Pat McAlexander (patmcalex@gmail.com).

#### **AHS Newsletter**

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