



THE ATHENS STROLLER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
ATHENS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
WINTER 2018



AHS ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 28, 3:00 PM
CHARLOTTE THOMAS MARSHALL TO RECEIVE THE HULL AWARD
*Richard B. Russell Library, Special Collections Auditorium**

Hull Award Presentation

At the Athens Historical Society's Annual Meeting on January 28 at 3:00 pm in the Richard B. Russell Library, the Society will present its prestigious Augustus Longstreet Hull Award. This award, in the form of an engraved crystal book, is given to an individual who has contributed significantly to knowledge of Athens history and to the promotion and advancement of AHS.



Charlotte Thomas Marshall

The recipient of the year's award, as announced at our holiday party, will be Charlotte Thomas Marshall. A native of Donaldson, Georgia and a graduate of Wesleyan College, Charlotte came to Athens in 1966. After only a year she became an avid student of Athens history, contributing significantly to AHS and knowledge of the city's history. Charlotte is past president of the Athens

Historical Society, one of the editors of *Papers of the Athens Historical Society, Volume II*; a founder of Friends of Oconee Hill Cemetery; and a frequent lecturer and conductor of Oconee Hill Cemetery walks (for OLLI@UGA, as part of Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation walks, as a benefit for Friends of Oconee Hill Cemetery, and for a variety of history classes). She is author of *Glimpses of the Antebellum History of Athens Baptist Church*; *Historic Houses of Athens, Georgia* (soon to be re-issued by AHS); and *Oconee Hill Cemetery of Athens, Georgia Volume I*. She is also the editor, publisher, and a contributor to the award-winning book, *The Tangible Past in Athens, Georgia*.



Gary Doster, Theresa Flynn, and Milton Leathers will give presentations on Charlotte's life and contributions.

After the program, there will be a catered reception to honor Charlotte. AHS merchandise will be for sale before and after the meeting, and you may join or renew your membership for 2018 at the Membership Table. Be sure to give us a current address and email address.

AHS Business Meeting

Before the presentation of the Hull award, there will be a brief business meeting. Members will be asked to approve the slate of nominees to fill openings on the AHS Board. The AHS bylaws now allow up to fifteen members on the Board. The following Board members still have one year left on their terms: 1) Dan Aldridge 2) Steven Brown 3) Larry Dendy 4) Cindy Galt 5) Janet Gregory 6) Pat McAlexander 7) Harry Neely 8) Beth Whitlock.

Two Board members whose terms are expiring have agreed to be nominated for the January 2018 – January 2020 term: 9) Svea Bogue and 10) Sam Thomas. The following have been nominated to fill the remaining openings for that term: 11) Steve Armour 12) James Lineberger 13) Jordan Shoemaker 14) Randy Reid. 15) Donnie Summerlin. See their bios and pictures on following pages in this newsletter.

Three of our present Board members—Mike Kitchens, Janine Duncan, and Angela Stanley—will be stepping down in January. Many thanks to them for their service

Continued on page 12

***Directions to the Richard B. Russell Library:**
Going toward downtown on Lumpkin Street, turn left at the light at Baxter Street, then take the first right. The parking deck will be the first turn to the left. Handicapped parking is located on level 3 of the deck; also on level 3 is a pedestrian bridge connecting the parking deck to the quad in front of the library.

AHS BOARD NOMINEES



Steve Armour earned a bachelor's degree in liberal studies from Georgia College and a masters in library and information science from Valdosta State University. As the University Archivist at UGA's Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library, he works with students, faculty, staff, and alumni to collect, preserve, and provide public access to UGA's historic records and artifacts. He enjoys playing guitar, hiking, and reading narrative non-fiction. He is also interested in Athens history and the local music scene. sarmour@uga.edu



Svea Bogue earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Southern California in speech communication. She moved to Athens in 1975 with her husband, Ron Bogue. For several years, she served as Executive Director of the Athens Clean and Beautiful Commission. Later she worked for 12 years in retail sales at Foster's Jewelers and JWR Jewelers. She also served on the Clarke County Board of Education for 14 years. Since retiring, she has joined the Georgia Museum of Art Docent group giving tours to adults and students. Svea serves on the Athens Library Board of Trustees and the Library Endowment Board. She has maintained an active interest in genealogy during the last fifteen years. sveabogue@gmail.com



James Lineberger was raised in Valdosta. After graduating from Valdosta State University with an undergraduate degree in art, he earned a master's degree in art history from UGA. His favorite part of the coursework was architectural history. After a career in teaching (both he and his wife taught English as a Second Language and special education classes in South Korea, Seattle, and, after 1999, in Athens), James retired and in 2013 began volunteering at the Athens Welcome Center, housed in the Church-Waddel-Brumby House. Working there rekindled James's interest in architectural history and inspired him to create an OLLI course on Athens architecture, which he taught for the first time in 2014. This course made him realize the need for a book that provided a comprehensive overview of architecture in Athens. The book he subsequently wrote, *Architecture in Athens: Then and Now*, received the 2017 Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation Outstanding Publications and Programs Award. jameswlineberger@gmail.com



Randy Reid, a native of Greensboro, North Carolina, received bachelor of arts degrees in history and English from Western Carolina University, a master of arts in history at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and a Ph.D in history at Louisiana State University. In 1986, he accepted a part-time teaching position at Athens Academy. The next year, he assumed the duties of a full-time teacher and the following year became chairman of the Humanities Department. His teaching duties have included courses in United States history, European history, Southern history, political science, and economics. He currently teaches two courses, "Visions in Literature and Film" and "Learning About Home: Original Research in Georgia History." The latter class is a project-based course designed to assist students to develop college-level research skills while encouraging an appreciation for local history. Students from the class have presented their work at regional, national, and international conferences over the past four years and participated in local events such as "Seen/Unseen," a 2013 pop-up exhibition on local history as part of the University of Georgia's Spotlight on the Arts. Since 2014, he also has served as a college counselor. rreid@athensacademy.org



Jordan Shoemaker is an Athens-area native who graduated from the University of Georgia with a degree in history; she is now completing her master's in historic preservation. She is a project specialist at the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission, focusing on historic preservation, downtown development, and grant writing. An active member of the Junior League of Athens, Jordan serves on the Taylor-Grady House committee and co-chairs the Taylor-Grady House 50th Anniversary committee. She also volunteers with Books for Keeps and the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia. Her academic interests include the culture and history of the American South, foodways, and the preservation of non-traditional resources. Jordan is also a zealous Dawg fan and aspiring gourmet cook and baker. jshoemaker7618@gmail.com



Donnie Summerlin is Digital Projects Archivist at the Digital Library of Georgia (aka the guy responsible for digitizing historic newspapers). Donnie is a lifelong resident of Georgia and was raised in Columbia County. He earned a B.A. in history from the University of Georgia, a M.A. in history from Georgia College, and a MLIS from Valdosta State University. He spent several years as an instructor of history at Georgia College in Milledgeville. Donnie began working on newspaper digitization at the Digital Library of Georgia in 2007; his work has resulted in the digitization of more than one million historical newspaper pages. Donnie has published articles in *D-Lib Magazine*, the *Journal of the Georgia Association of Historians*, the *New Georgia Encyclopedia*, and the *Georgia Library Quarterly*. He is a member of the Society of American Archivists, the American Historical Association, and the Society of Georgia Archivists. donsum@uga.edu



Sam Thomas was born in North Carolina, raised in South Carolina, and graduated from Winthrop College in Charlotte, N.C. He served for fifteen years as the curator of the Culture & Heritage Museum in York County, S. C. and as an officer in numerous South Carolina historical societies. He was also a technical advisor for the Mel Gibson film *The Patriot*. Sam has published numerous magazine and journal articles and several books including *A Rising Star of Promise: The Civil War Odyssey of David Jackson Logan*; *Shanks: The Life and Wars of General Nathan G. Evans*; and, with Vince Dooley, *The Legion's Fighting Bulldog: The Civil War Correspondence of William Gaston Delony, Lieutenant Colonel of Cobb's Georgia Legion Cavalry, and Rosa Delony, 1853-1863*. He came to Athens in 2006 as curator of the T.R.R. Cobb House for the Watson-Brown Foundation. stthomas@trrcobbhouse.org ■

OCTOBER AHS PROGRAM

DR. STEPHEN BERRY ON “CSI DIXIE”

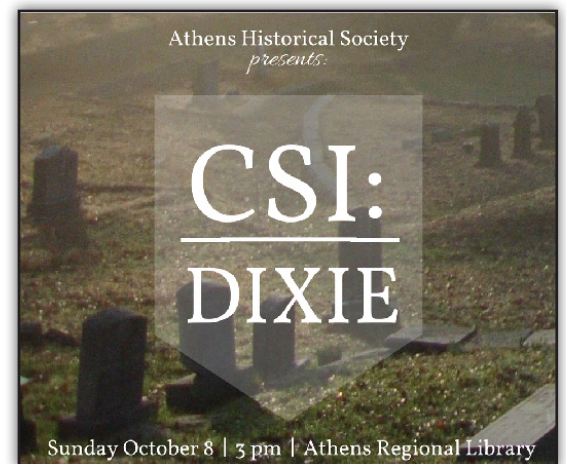
On October 8 a crowd braved a heavy deluge to attend Dr. Stephen Berry's presentation “CSI Dixie: The View from the American South” at the Athens-Clarke County library. It was well worth doing so. Dr. Berry's description of what the South's county coroner records reveal about nineteenth-century life was fascinating. The word “coroner,” Dr. Berry told us, comes from the Latin word corona, crown, for the job of coroners was originally to find out what taxes were due to the king by the estates of the deceased. In later times, their reports stressed cause of death, and were usually related to criminal justice, but they can also reveal much about public health. Dr. Berry also discussed information from the federal mortality census which charted the country's deaths between June 1, 1849, and May 31, 1850, though the accuracy of its statistics is questionable. Citizens often did not want to reveal causes of death to the stranger taking the census—or, lacking medical training, they were not accurate in determining the cause.



Dr Berry listens to a question from the audience

Not questionable, however, is how hard life and death was in the nineteenth-century South. Dr. Berry projected graphs on the screen showing life expectancy by gender and race, total number of deaths by state, and causes of death. For example, in 1850, fatal accidents were caused by burns, drowning, explosions, and “machinery.” The chief cause of death during the nineteenth century, said Dr. Berry, was tuberculosis, although in the 1850 mortality census it was listed as consumption. Showing a graph with a line that was level and then shot up dramatically, Dr. Berry pointed out its significance: in the relatively recent past, human life expectancy has doubled.

Much more was covered in the lecture. Further information on CSI: Dixie can be found at the project's website, csidixie.org. ■



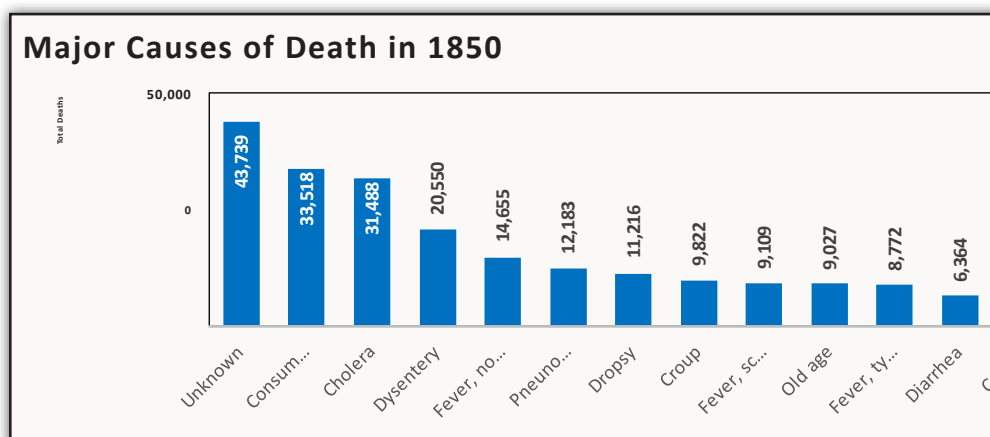


Don Smith, general manager of Oconee Hill Cemetery, Helen Constantino, and others at the reception after the program



Gisela and Tom Gresham examine one of the new AHS maps on display

Dr. Berry's description of what the South's county coroner records reveal about nineteenth-century life was fascinating.



Portion of a chart showing major causes of death in 1850.
Few died of "old age."

HISTORY NOTES

Update from Committee to Revise First Flight Historical Markers

Revelations in *Dan Aldridge's To Lasso the Clouds: The Beginning of Aviation in Georgia*—about the role of Ben Epps's partner Zumpt A. Huff, the actual date of their first flight, and the fact that Epps and Huff flew the first monoplane in the United States — have led to the formation of the Committee to Revise the First Flight Markers in Athens-Clarke County. This committee has been in contact with the Georgia Historical Society about proposed changes to two markers. The marker located at the Athens-Clarke County Airport will require only minor corrections (primarily changing the date of the first flight from 1907 to 1909). However, the marker located at 120 E. Washington Street will require more extensive corrections. The committee is waiting to hear from the Georgia Historical Society as to the proposed changes.

In addition, the committee is looking into proposed corrective changes in the first flight exhibit in the new airport terminal and the possibility of placing some type of marker near Ben Epps's former home, which is also near the location where the first flight took place. If you are interested in receiving updates from the committee and/or working with the committee, you are invited to contact Dan Aldridge at DanAldridgeAuthor@gmail.com. Thank you to each of the members of this committee: Cindy Galt, Billy Galt, Gary Doster, Chantel Dunham, Bill Evelyn, Lewis Shropshire, and Dan Aldridge.

New resources for researching more recent Athens history

AHS congratulates the Athens Regional Library System for winning a \$25,000 grant to participate in the Community Webs Project, a nationwide project which focuses on archiving community websites. By preserving such contemporary records, the library's project captures a treasure trove of materials about Athens and the surrounding area for tomorrow's historians.



Flagpole, an independent locally owned Athens newspaper published weekly since 1987, has been added to the Digital Library of Georgia's Historic Newspapers fully indexed site. For the past three decades, *Flagpole* has published articles on politics, music, art, theater, movies, books, and food. Having all these issues of *Flagpole* available on line will be another resource for historians doing research on late twentieth-century and early twenty-first-century Athens. Much of the scanning for this project was done by AHS member Beth Whitlock, who has been complimented for her "really clear scans." The University of Georgia student newspaper *The Red and Black* (1893 – present) has also been added to the site. Access *Flagpole*, *The Red and Black*, and other historic Georgia newspapers at gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu.

Honors to AHS members

AHS Board member Janet Gregory was named a Hospitality HERO of the Year by the Athens Convention and Visitors Bureau at their awards ceremony in October. The award honored Janet for providing "exceptional experiences in Athens" through her role as event planner and administrator of the Athens Junior League, through her work at the Taylor Grady House. Janet has recently accepted a new position as Director of Historic Properties for the city of Washington, GA, but she will still be based in Athens for at least a year,

AHS Vice President Sam Thomas and member Vince Dooley won the Georgia Historical Records and Archives Council Award for Excellence for their 2017 book *The Legion's Fighting Bulldog: The Civil War Correspondence of William Gaston Delony, Lieutenant Colonel of Cobb's Georgia Legion Cavalry, and Rosa Delony, 1853-1863*.

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NEW AND RETURNING AHS MEMBERS

Family

John and Sharla Campbell
Ian Hardin and Carol McKay
Dawn and Matt Heric
Chuck Horne

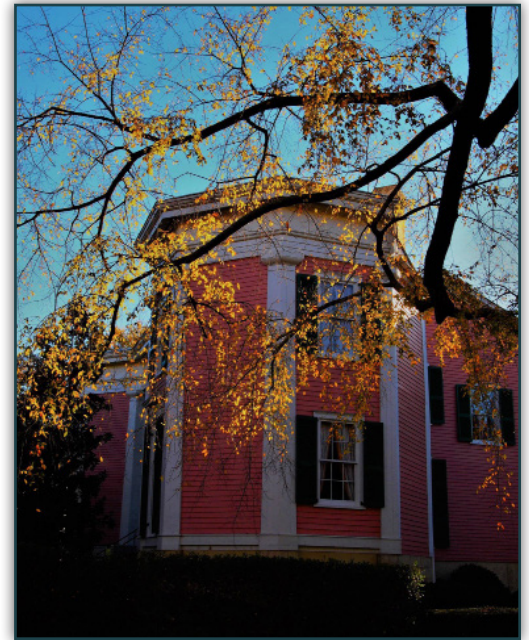
Individual

Amy Andrews
Elaine Neal
Lois Player
Jordan Shoemaker
Frank Uhler
Carol Williams

Student

Sierra Pritchard

Correction: M/M C.W. Dobson (as listed in the Spring 2017 *Stroller*) should be M/M C.W. Dopson.



The T.R.R. Cobb House in fall (Ben Slaboda)



AHS HOLIDAY PARTY

The AHS Holiday Party at the Taylor-Grady House on December 14 drew a crowd. Besides the good food, drink, and socializing, there was the important announcement that Charlotte Thomas Marshall would be the 2018 Hull Award winner.



Crowd waiting for announcement of Hull award winner



Applause for Hull Award winner Charlotte Thomas Marshall (second from left)

BOUND, BUT NOT DETERMINED: A MAP QUESTION ANSWERED by Steven Brown, AHS Historian (and Map Dilettante)

Folks, including myself, who own copies of the 1874 W.W. Thomas map from the Athens Historical Society, have been puzzled to note that the boundaries of the city go well beyond those shown on later maps from 1893 and 1895. It doesn't seem in character for the meticulous W.W. Thomas to make such a major mistake, but the difference is clear.

Happily, the answer is that all these maps are correct. The November 13, 1872, *Southern Watchman* reported that the state legislature had approved that the city boundaries of Athens should "extend for a distance of two miles in an airline in every direction from the College Chapel." This was the boundary recorded by Thomas in 1874. Two years later in the September 19, 1876 *Athens Georgian*, an author identified only as "H" explained why this circular measuring system was popular in the South in the nineteenth century, noting that aside from a circle, "the assumption of any figure whatever with few or more angles would be the signal for an hundred suspicions of partiality."

The real purpose of H's column, entitled "Importance of Shrinkage," was to argue that the two-mile radius set in 1872 had been a mistake. He claimed that the land beyond a circle with a 1.5-mile radius was largely agricultural and only generated about \$500 in tax revenue in a year. With the extra roads and two bridges to maintain, he estimated that upkeep on that half-mile belt of land cost the city \$665 per year, a loss of \$165. To avoid "suspicions of partiality" he recommended shrinking the circle uniformly. He rested his case, writing, "The disadvantages of keeping up the present limit, need no summing up. The advantages, I leave for someone else to set forth, for I can't see any."

Apparently the majority of Athens citizens agreed. The November 14, 1876 *Athens Georgian* announced that the city council had called for a vote on the first Tuesday in December on the question of shrinking the city to a 1.5-mile radius. The January 9, 1877, issue of the paper reported that the issue had passed and the city council would be petitioning the state to "shrink" the circle.

For those wishing to judge the issue with their own eyes, copies of both the 1874 and 1893 city maps (as well as the 1893 county map and others) still are available through your Athens Historical Society. ■

IN MEMORIAM

Robert Gibson

Active in the revival of the Athens Historical Society in 1959

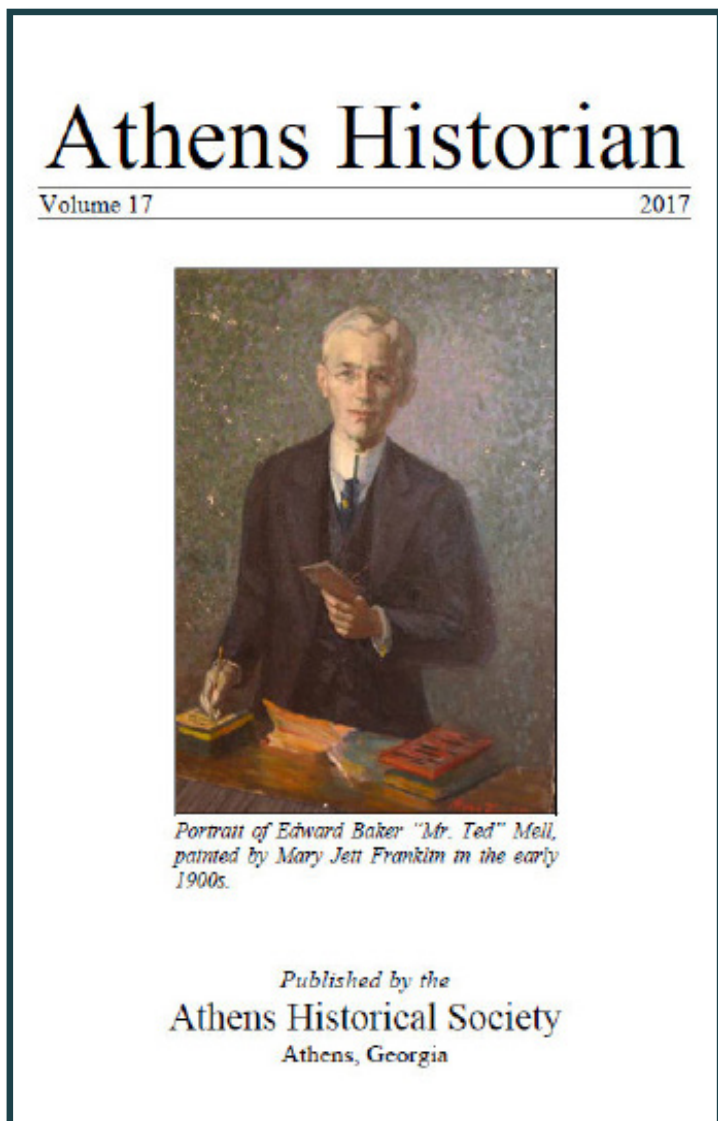
Charles Carter

Long-time member of AHS

THE 2017 ATHENS HISTORIAN

The 2017 issue of the *Athens Historian* should be in members' mailboxes soon. The five articles in this issue are on the following topics: the work of Athens artist Mary Jett Franklin (by Mary Bondurant Warren); the history of the Princeton Manufacturing Company, also known as Princeton Mill, once located off Lumpkin Street (by David Rush and Patricia McAlexander); Boxwood, the large 1859 Italianate house on the corner of Dearing and Pope Streets, and the three families who lived in it (by John Nicholson); how Ben Epps and Zumpt Huff together made aviation history in Athens by flying the first monoplane in America (by Dan A. Aldridge, Jr.); and the Athens school days of Nick Chilivis, (portions of a memoir by Nick Chilivis, noted Georgia lawyer who was active in many state legal and civic circles and was the attorney for the UGA Athletic Association for more than forty years).

The issue is 88 pages, indexed and illustrated, with cover images in color. It was edited by Larry Dendy, Theresa Flynn, and Pat McAlexander with additional help of designer, historian-researcher, and long-time AHS member Eve Mayes. Non-members may buy copies of this issue for \$3; also available for \$3 are most past issues of the *Athens Historian*.



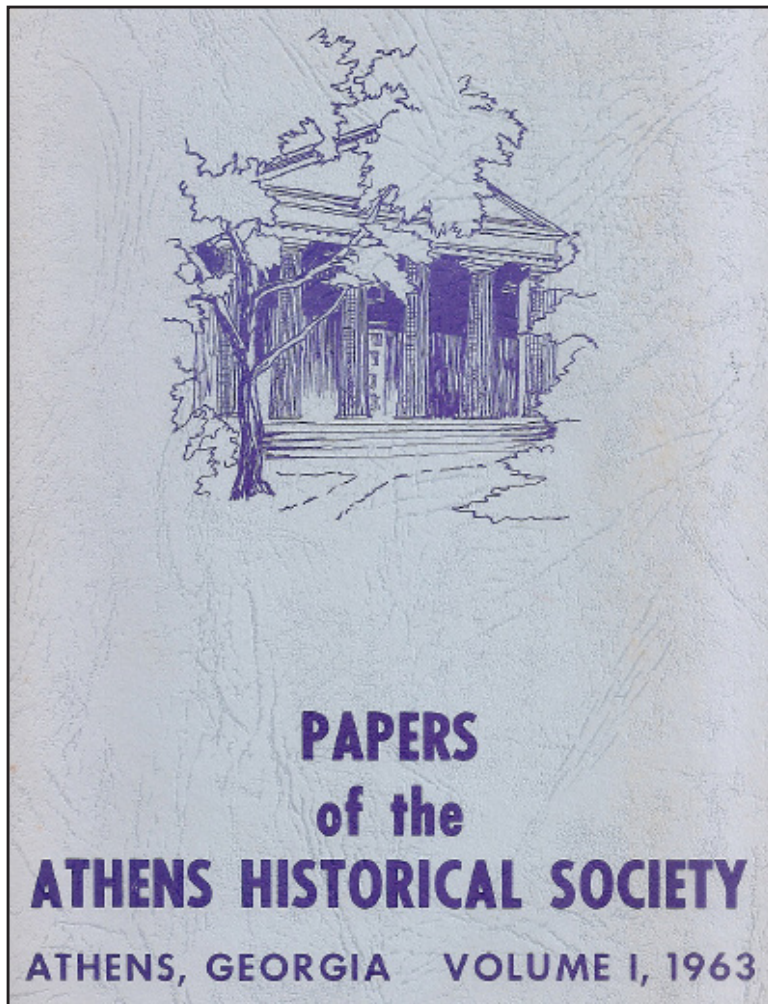
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*The 2017
Athens Historian
is here!*

THE PAPERS OF THE ATHENS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Available in limited numbers

There are some excellent articles in these two volumes of *AHS Papers*, forerunners of the *Athens Historian*. Published in 1963 and 1979 respectively, the publications are themselves now historical artifacts. We are offering these volumes for \$2.50 each. The *Papers* will make a great addition to any collection of works on Athens history. The tables of contents are listed below. Email us (athenshistorical@gmail.com) if you are interested in one or both volumes and we will bring your order to the next program (unless other arrangements are made). Numbers are limited—first come, first served.



This 1963 volume was edited by Marion West Marshall and Mary Bondurant Warren. An anonymous drawing of the UGA Chapel is on the cover.

VOLUME I (1963, 88 pp.)

Athens: Its Earliest History

by Mary Bondurant Warren

Athenians and Savannahians: 100 Years of Exchange, 1800-1900

by Lilla M. Hawes

Some Early Republicans in Athens and Clarke County

by Olive H. Shadgett

Howell Cobb and the Secession Movement in Georgia

by Horace Montgomery

Tom Cobb at the Montgomery Convention

by John F. Stegeman, M.D.

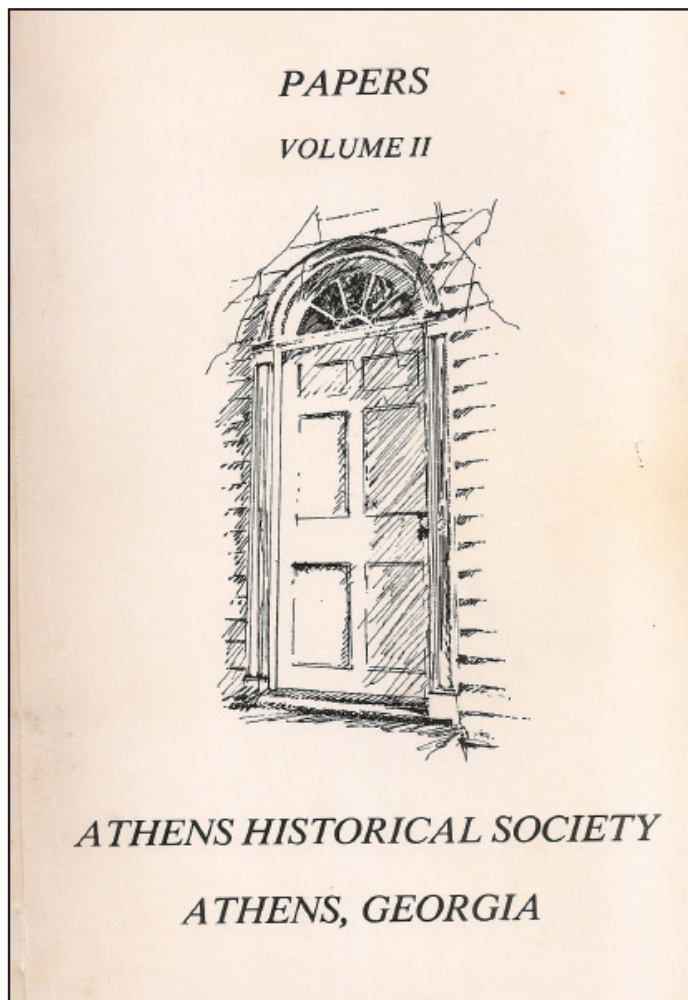
Random Recollections, or Leaves from the Linton Branch of the Hull Family Tree

by Lucy Linton (abridged transcription)

The Settlement of Scull Shoals, Georgia

by Grace Hardigree Collier

Braswells Make Gift of Historic Gate for Jackson Street Cemetery



Members of the editorial committee for this 1979 volume were Patricia Irvin Cooper, chair; Charlotte Thomas Marshall, Hubert H. McAlexander, Jr., and Susan Barrow Tate. On the cover is a drawing of the west doorway of the Cobb/Jackson-Ward-Erwin house on Dearing Street by Laurie Pannell.

Four members of the publications committee for *AHS Papers, Volume II* (front, Hubert McAlexander and Beth Abney, back, Susan B. Tate and Charlotte Marshall) posed on the UGA Chapel steps for the January 1, 1980 issue of the *Athens Daily News*. (reprinted with permission of the *Athens Banner-Herald*)

VOLUME II (1979, 121 pp.)

Some Reminiscences of Early Life and Times
by the Reverend Henry Newton (transcription)

Athens Houses of the 1820s
by Patricia Irvin Cooper

*Early Water-Powered Industries in Athens
and Clarke County*
by Louis DeVorse, Jr.

George Cooke and the Chapel Painting
by Beth Abney

The Confederate Armory of Cook & Brother
by Charles J. Brockman, Jr.

*The Black Journalists: Current Events
and Controversy*
by Michael L. Thurmond

*The First Twenty Years: A Brief History of
the Athens Historical Society*
by Susan B. Tate

Contributor Biographies, Index



to AHS. Mike, an Athens attorney, has been on the Board for several years, serving the last two years as president. He was instrumental in instituting the AHS Hull Award, first given in 2015. Janine Duncan, a historic preservationist with the UGA grounds department who has served on the Board previously, this term did a superb job organizing refreshments at our programs and social events. Angela Stanley, a librarian first at the A-CC Regional Library Heritage Room and then as Director of Georgia HomePLACE of Georgia Public Library Service, provided us with many good suggestions and connections during her two-year term. ■

Publications and exhibits

AHS member Hubert McAlexander has compiled and edited *From the Chickasaw Cession to Yoknapatawpha*, a collection of more than 50 essays tracing the history of Northern Mississippi, to which many Georgians emigrated in the 1800s. In the words of contributor Wilson Golden, this collection of “first-hand contemporary accounts... blended with essays by descendants of the area’s early pioneers [describes] how a vast wilderness area became an economic powerhouse...only to be devastated by the Civil War” and “brings to life the themes of race and class embodied in the fiction of William Faulkner.”

An exhibit by Athens artists portraying Athens scenes will be part of the Plein Air exhibit at the Lyndon House opening June 5, 2018. Entitled “Athens, Our Point of View,” this part of the exhibit will include paintings, drawings, watercolors and pastels of Athens subjects that include shotgun houses, antebellum homes, and historic churches and cemeteries. More details—and some samples of the art—will come in the spring *Athens Stroller*. ■

≈ **Stroller Editor: Pat McAlexander | Proofreader: Larry Dendy | Designer: Kat Farlowe** ≈

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Facebook page: Athens Historical Society (Athens, GA)**

AHS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Our membership year is from **March 1 to March 1**. To join or renew for March 2018 to March 2019, 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 levels: (circle one) Student \$20, Individual \$35, Family \$50, Supporting \$75, Patron \$100, Business \$250.

Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

New ____ or Renewing ____ member (Please check one) Date: _____

Telephone: _____

Email(s): _____ *Your email address is requested for online mailings & updates.*

I would like to make an additional donation of _____.