



Spring 2015 Newsletter

Next AHS Program

MOINA MICHAEL, THE POPPY LADY: (ALMOST) FORGOTTEN ATHENS HERO

Sunday, June 14, 3 p.m.

Appleton Auditorium, Athens Regional Library



Note: The March meeting offered such an abundance of riches that it lasted longer than usual. The June program will return to the hour-long format, including the introduction of the speaker and a question period.

When Stephen Mulqueen from New Zealand recently visited Athens, he was shocked to discover that few knew about Moina Michael, “the Poppy Lady” who launched the world-wide tradition of using the poppy to memorialize soldiers who have served their country. On Armistice Day in Canada, New Zealand, and Great Britain, the poppy is still an ever-present symbol of the soldiers’ heroic sacrifice. And to residents of these countries, Moina Michael is also a hero.

It was John McCrae’s famous poem “In Flanders Fields” (1915) that inspired Moina to initiate the poppy tradition. In McCrae’s beautiful poem soldiers of the Great War buried under rows of crosses among the poppies in Flanders Field, speak to the living:

*....Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

Michael responded with her own poem, “We Shall

Keep the Faith”: “... *And now the Torch and Poppy Red/ We wear in honor of our dead.....*”

The centennial of John McCrae's poem is an appropriate time to remind Athenians of outstanding Athens educator Moina Michael and the tradition which she began. On June 14, at 3:00 p.m. at the Athens Regional Library’s Appleton Auditorium, the AHS will present a program on Michael and her work to establish the poppy as a symbol. Tom Michael, a descendent, will present an illustrated program on her legacy as “The Poppy Lady.” Also we will have two of Athens Town and Gown’s principal actors as part of the program: Allen Rowell will read “In Flanders Fields” and Gay McCommons will read Moina Michael’s “We Shall Keep the Faith.” The program is open to the public.



After the meeting we will have refreshments and an opportunity to talk informally with the speaker. At this time you may also purchase AHS products and, if you have not already done so, pay your membership dues with cash or check (\$20 individual, \$30 family, \$50 patron, \$100 sustaining). **Other payment options: see page 8.**

HISTORY OF THE ATHENS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This updated history of the AHS was written by AHS Board member Mike Kitchens. This version, which has been placed on the AHS website, is the first one to include the 1899 founding of the Society by A.L. Hull.

The Athens Historical Society (AHS) was first organized on February 3, 1899. On that cold Friday night twenty Athenians gathered at the antebellum mansion of Augustus ("Gus") Longstreet Hull (1847-1909) to form a group whose purpose was to preserve, record and protect the history of our great city. It was only fitting that they met in the home of Augustus Longstreet Hull, as he is one of Athens, Georgia's most prolific and notable historians. By the time the Athens Historical Society was formed that night, Hull had already authored *A Historical Sketch of the University of Georgia* in 1894 and *Sketches of Athens, Georgia from 1830- 1865* in 1893. He had also edited *Sketches from the Early History of Athens, Georgia 1801-1825* authored by his father, Dr. Henry Hull. Seven years later Augustus Longstreet Hull was to publish perhaps his best known work, *Annals of Athens, Georgia, 1801-1901*. This book has become the first source most historians consult when studying the earliest years of Athens and the University of Georgia.

Gus Hull was elected as the organization's first president. The first roll of members of the organization reads like a Who's Who of Athens and Georgia history; it included Howell Cobb, Jr., J. H. T. McPherson, J. C. Bloomfield, Sylvanus Morris, H. H. Carlton, E. D. Newton, D. C. Barrow, W. W. Thomas, H. C. White, S. C. Upson, Harry Hodgson, Ulrich B. Phillips, H. H. Linton, and J. D. Mell, among others. The organization was an active one during its first year of existence with local



newspapers writing accounts of their meetings in which each respective member would make presentations to the group on areas of historical interest which they had researched. However, after 1899, no further notice was taken of the society in local papers. It is not known for how long the first iteration of the society remained intact. For reasons now lost in the haze of time, however, the AHS disappeared.

It was not until October 11, 1959 that a second group of Athens' history-minded citizens gathered to reconstitute the Athens Historical Society into a vibrant organization and the AHS was re-born.

Such distinguished Athenians forming this group included Sarah Maret, Director of the Athens Regional Library; John E. Talmadge, Professor of English at the University of Georgia; Porter Kellam, Director of the University of Georgia Library; Kenneth Coleman, Professor of History at the University of Georgia; Richard N. Fickett III, an Athens antiquarian; Marion West Marshall, the wife of distinguished UGA Professor of English, George Marshall; Harry Hodgson, Sr., Athens businessman and UGA trustee; John W. Bonner, Special Collections Librarian, the University of Georgia Library; Susan B. Tate, Library Assistant, the University of Georgia Library; Miss Lucy Clark, English teacher at Athens High School; and Robert G. Gibson, an Athens lawyer. Temporary committees were formed to plan the general organizational meeting held on October 29, 1959. At this meeting the organization's constitution was approved and the society's goals and purposes were formulated. These goals have remained largely unchanged since that time.

Purpose and Goals of the Athens Historical Society:

- To discover, collect and preserve all materials, especially original and source materials, pertaining to Athens' and regional history;
- To disseminate this knowledge for the enlightenment of our citizenry through preparing, editing and publishing historical materials descriptive of Athens and the area;
- To sponsor programs and activities of historical interest;
- To promote historical research;
- To promote preservation and perpetuation of historic sites;
- To bring together those interested in the history of Athens and its surrounding area;

To promote public interest in the history of Athens; and

To develop the citizenry's understanding of their historic past.

The goals of the AHS have wide-reaching appeal. Although the society's membership rolls fluctuate from year to year, it has boasted as many as 600 members. In April 1980 the AHS incorporated for the first time, and in March 1989 the organization received its 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation status. The organization continues to operate as a non-profit today.

In an effort to serve its membership and the community at large and to fulfill its purpose to protect, promote and record the history of Athens and its surrounding area, the AHS hosts at least four programs each year in which authors, historians, and/or lecturers conduct seminars or offer presentations about topics of interest. In recent years well-attended programs have been offered on early maps of Athens, Augustus Longstreet Hull and his impact on Athens history, historic landmarks on the UGA campus, and Athens' prominent position as an industrial center in the antebellum South. The society has also organized and sponsored on-site visits and one-day rambles to historic properties, providing a unique opportunity for members to obtain personal experience

with the places impacting the history of our region, state and nation. However, programs and site visits make up only part of AHS's offerings. The society also hosts various social gatherings during the course of a year, including receptions and holiday parties. Nearly all of the foregoing events are free to society members.

Other projects through which the AHS meets its historical preservation and promotional mandates are the sponsoring, placement, and erection of state historical markers; the publication of unique works by both academic and non-academic authors; the publication of the society's own papers via *The Historian*; and hosting exhibits of historical interest. For example, the society published and sold books important to recording Athens' history, including, among others, Charlotte Thomas Marshall's *Historic Houses of Athens* (1987); Gary Doster's *A Postcard History of Athens, Georgia* (2002); and Charlotte Thomas Marshall's *Oconee Hill Cemetery* (2009).

Today, the AHS continues to be an important conduit linking Athens' past to its present. Its membership is open to anyone interested in history. Members not only benefit from the numerous events, programs, and publications sponsored by the organization, but are encouraged to participate in fulfilling the society's goals. Please consider joining this historic organization today so that, together, we can expand and preserve the knowledge of our yesterdays.

NEW AHS BYLAWS

At the annual meeting on January 18th, the Society adopted a revised set of bylaws for the organization, the first substantial revision in more than 30 years. (For the full text of the bylaws, see www.athenshistorical.org/constitution-and-bylaws.) The principle changes involve the structure and function of the Board of Directors. The previous bylaws provided for six directors serving two-year terms elected on a staggered basis and five officers serving one-year terms, each elected annually by the membership. The revised bylaws specify a Board of between 10 and 12 members elected for two two-year terms by the membership. The officers -- a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer -- will be elected for one-year terms by the Board from among the Board members. The Board also may designate additional officer positions such as a historian or archivist. New provisions are included on the removal of officers and filling vacancies.

ATHENS HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS AND BOARD

MEMBERS (2015-2016)

Officers:



Ashley Simpson (President) was born in Charlotte, North Carolina, where, influenced by her parents, she developed an interest in gardens, photography, and historic houses. She came to Athens as a UGA student, earning a Bachelor of Fine

Arts and Interior Design from the Art Department. Ashley started her own interior design business at age 23 and taught courses in design at the Georgia Center. She became particularly interested in Athens history when she bought her late nineteenth-century house in the Dearing Street neighborhood. She is married to Greg Yoder; they have two children, Thomas and Sarah. Ashley is now retired and spends a great deal of her time working with AHS.

AthensHistorical@gmail.com



Janet Patterson (Vice President) is a native of Athens and graduate of Athens High and UGA. She and her husband Alex returned from Atlanta to Athens to live seven years ago, after Alex retired from his law firm.

Janet works not only with AHS but with the Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation, the Board of Advisers of the Georgia Museum of Art, and the Board the Nancy Travis Childcare Project. Janet is also active in the Episcopal diocese of Atlanta. Her house and garden were on the spring 2015 Georgia Trust Ramble.

janet483@earthlink.net



Beth Allison Whitlock

(Secretary) is a retired school media specialist who earned a BS in Library Science and Education from Columbia College (South Carolina) and an MLIS from University of South Carolina. Before

moving to Athens she was a member of the Griffin-Spalding County Library Board. She currently works as an Information Services and Heritage Room Librarian at the Athens-Clarke County Library where she compiles and disseminates the newsletter *Genealogy and History Events* and

teaches the classes "GALILEO and Genealogy" and "Free Genealogy Resources on the Internet." **whitlocklibrarian@gmail.com**

George W. Smith (Treasurer)



a resident of Athens since 1956, is a graduate of Athens High School and The University of Georgia. He retired from his position as Head of the University Printing Department at UGA in 2006. George is a deacon and treasurer of Stevens Grove Baptist Church, and a member of Gideon

International. He is also a long-time member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and has an interest in general of all things historic, including automobiles and houses. **gws1940@bellsouth.net**



Steven Brown (Historian)

was born in Columbus, Ohio, attended The Ohio State University and The University of Michigan, and moved to Athens in 1979. In the tradition of imports to Athens, he

stayed. After 21 years with the UGA Libraries faculty in various positions at the Science Library, he moved to the Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library in 2000 as head of University Archives and Records Management. In 2008 he retired to half-time status as University Archivist Emeritus at the Hargrett, where he continues to enjoy serving the research community. His particular interest in Athens is its architecture and development as a city. **sabrown@iga.edu**

Board Members:



Dexter Adams is a native of Walton County. He earned a bachelor's degree (1976) and master's degree (2004) in landscape architecture from UGA and is a registered landscape architect. He

worked in Oklahoma and Florida before returning to Athens, where he was Grounds Director for UGA. His career has involved a wide range of historic landscapes—from native American to mid-twentieth century. He has recently retired from UGA. **dexadams@uga.edu**



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 ldendy@uga.edu



Theresa M. Flynn has history and English degrees from UGA, and an MLIS, with a focus on Information Policy & Management, from FSU. She worked a few years as a technical writer in the software industry before becoming a librarian, where she was a mainstay in the Her-

itage Room for several years and created the popular *This Day in Athens* blog. She was a contributor to the 2014 publication, *The Tangible Past in Athens, Georgia*, including running their website and Facebook page. She has been on the board of AHS since 2012, chairs its Website committee, and runs its Facebook page. She lives with her husband of 19 years, Doug Hellmann, in Five Points, where she is working on a variety of projects. th.flynn@gmail.com



Kevin Garrison is a Commerce, Georgia, native and a graduate of The University of Georgia and The University of Mississippi School of Law. He makes his career as a financial advisor with Morgan Stanley. Kevin has many interests, in particular his passion for classic

cars. Other interests include the architecture, design, and culture of the early to mid-twentieth century; general aviation; model railroading; and the history and culture of Great Britain. Kevin is a member of the Athens-Clarke County Historic Preservation Commission, the Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation, Friends of Oconee Hill Cemetery, and the First Presbyterian Church of Athens.

kbg1976@gmail.com

Michael W. "Mike" Kitchens first came to Athens in 1984 when he enrolled in The University of Georgia's Terry College of Business, obtaining a degree



in Risk Management and Insurance in 1988. After earning his Juris Doctor in 1994 in Mississippi, he practiced law for fifteen years in Atlanta. He now has his own law firm in Athens. Mike is the author of *Ghosts of Grandeur: Georgia's Lost Antebellum Homes and Plan-*

tations, which recaptures the history of Georgia's lost mansions and their occupants. His book garnered state and national recognition, winning for him the Independent Book Publishers Association's gold medal award as the nation's Best New Author in Non-Fiction in 2013. Mike continues to work on other books about the South's antebellum architecture and history. mwkit1620@live.com



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 edited this issue of the AHS newsletter.

patmcalex@gmail.com



Evelyn Reece, a native New Orleanian who moved to Athens in 1990, holds a Masters Degree in Historic Preservation from UGA. She is currently chairperson of the Lexington Historic Preservation Commission, Director/Curator of the Athens Wel-

come Center at the Church-Waddel-Brumby House Museum, and principal of Reece Preservation Services, a consulting and design firm specializing in historic properties. In her earlier career, Evelyn served as Preservation Planner at the Athens-Clarke County Planning Department, as a project manager for the HABS-HAER Program of the National Park Service (in Pittsburg and Birmingham), and as an architectural technician for several Louisiana design firms. Within the last ten years, she and her husband Greg have restored their c.1825 Plantation Plain home in Lexington. athenswc@negia.net

PAST 2015 MEETINGS

January 18. The Athens Historical Society generally holds four meetings a year—in October, January, March, and May or June. These include programs open to the public. This January, at the Hargrett Library in the Russell Special Collections Building on the UGA campus, historian/researcher Steven Brown spoke on the life and work of the man who could perhaps be designated as Athens' first historian: Augustus Longstreet Hull. Hull authored of *Annals of Athens, 1801-1901* (published 1906), a book which provides groundwork for all researchers of Athens history. He also wrote *The Campaigns of*



Michael Kitchens (second from right) presenting the Crystal Book to to A.L. Hull descendants (l. to r): Bill Evans (Atlanta), Nan Evans Vogler (Atlanta), Leslie Morris (Macon), and Sally Hovis (Atlanta). (photo by Pat McAlexander)



**The Hull Award—
The Crystal Book**

the Confederate Army, Sketches of Athens, Georgia: 1830-1865, Historical Sketch of the University of Georgia, and Catalog of the Trustees, Officers, Alumni, and Matriculates of the University of Georgia.

At this meeting the society presented its first Augustus Longstreet Hull Award, an engraved crystal book to be given to an individual who has contributed significantly to knowledge of Athens history. Most appropriately, the first recipient was Augustus Longstreet Hull himself. Several of Hull's descendants

were on hand to receive the posthumous award.

March 15. At this meeting, also held at the Hargrett Library, Steven Brown presented “Athens by Leaps and Bounds! –The Development of Athens Shown in Historic Maps (1805-1946) in the Hargrett Library.” The talk was effectively illustrated with Power Point illustrations of the maps. In a break between the two “chapters” of this talk, Image Coordinator Mary Linneman explained the process of scanning the often very large archival maps shown on



President Ashley Simpson introduces speaker Stephen Brown at the March AHS meeting.

the slides. After the program, refreshments were served and the actual historic maps were on display. (Note: You can see this program on our Facebook page.)



After the meeting, participants mingle, enjoy refreshments, and check out maps for sale at the membership table. (photos by Michael Kitchens)

AHS SURVEY

Enclosed with this newsletter is a four-page survey asking you, our members, what you would like our Society to do—and how *you* would be willing to help the Society. Please take a few minutes to fill out your answers and mail it to the address provided

THE ATHENS HISTORIAN

James K. Reap is the current editor of the AHS publication *The Athens Historian*, an annual journal which publishes articles of historical interest to Athenians and Georgians. Back issues from 1996 are available for sale through the AHS website. James is Professor and Graduate Coordinator of the Master of Historic Preservation Program at The University of Georgia. He has held leadership positions in the International Council of Monuments and Sites, Lawyers Committee for Cultural Heritage Preservation, United States Committee of the Blue Shield, Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, Preservation Action, and Georgia Alliance and National Alliance of Preservation Commissions. He served as the first Vice Chair of the Athens Historic Preservation Commission and is past president of both the Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation and Athens Historical Society. He is author of *Athens: A Pictorial History*. jreap@uga.edu



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In This Issue:

GEORGIAN WE SHOULDN'T FORGET: Dr. Atherton Seidel
Selected Images from the Atherton Seidel Photo Album
Roy Hitchcock, Architect: A University of Georgia Design Legacy

HISTORICAL LOST AND FOUND

AHS often gets research questions on subjects pertaining to Athens. Can any members help with the following requests? Please send your answers or suggestions to AHS, P.O. Box 7745, Athens, GA 30604-7745 or email AthensHistorical@gmail.com and we will pass your responses on to the questioner.

I am the editor of *Gettysburg Magazine*. In Issue 51 we are planning to run an article that will feature Adjutant Thomas P. Oliver of the 24th Georgia Infantry. The article deals with an act of heroism he engaged in on July 2, 1863, to bring water to a wounded Union soldier at great risk to his own life. We would like very much to find a photograph of Oliver for use with the article. I am told he was buried in Athens, so I am writing to inquire whether you might have a photograph of him that we could use to illustrate the article. Of course, the historical society would be given credit for the use of the illustrations. If you do not have one, we would . . . be grateful for any other suggestions you might be able to offer.

William Lafferty of Lafferty's Market in Athens was my great-grandfather. He filed for bankruptcy in 1886 and subsequently moved. William Lafferty moved, he must have had a bank account with a local Athens bank. His house and market were on Prince Street. Can you think of an Athens bank that he might have used?

THE AHS LOGO



The basic AHS logo (used in various forms) features representations of three intertwined elements: at the base, roots, representing the past and foundation of Athens; in the middle, a Greek column, suggesting Athens' culture, traditions, and architecture; and on top, a flame, symbolizing the city's bright future. The logo is a fitting symbol of The Athens Historical Society, for it is out of the past that the present and future spring.

**The Athens Historical Society
has available a paid part-time
administrative position.**

For more information email

**Michael Kitchens at
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AHS Newsletter

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Athens Historical Society

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JOIN AHS OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP EITHER ONLINE OR BY FILLING OUT AND MAILING IN THE FORM BELOW.



Membership Form

Thank you for your continued support of the Athens Historical Society.

To join or renew your membership online with credit or debit card, please visit
<https://www.athenshistorical.org/membership-join>

Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email Address 1: _____

Email Address 2: _____

An email address is requested for online newsletter and member updates.

Membership Levels:

Individual: \$20 | Family: \$30 | Supporting: \$50 | Patron: \$100 | Business: \$250

Annual membership amount: \$ _____

Please consider an additional tax-deductible contribution: \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Please make your check payable to the Athens Historical Society
P.O. Box 7745, Athens, GA 30606-7745