

THE ATHENS STROLLER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
ATHENS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FALL 2017



CSI DIXIE: DR. STEPHEN BERRY ON THE REVELATIONS OF SOUTHERN CORONERS' RECORDS 1800-1900

**Sunday, October 8, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Athens-Clarke County Library**



Dr. Stephen Berry

Our fall AHS program—perhaps an appropriate one for the Halloween month of October—will be Dr. Stephen Berry of the University of Georgia History Department speaking on the project "CSI Dixie: The View from the American South's County Coroners' Offices, 1800-1900." The program will be held at the Athens Regional Library at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 8. For the program, enter multi-purpose room A. Dr. Berry's talk will describe how the South's county coroners' records reveal not only causes of death in the nineteenth-century South, but also dramatic stories about life in that era. The CSI website describes the project as providing information about public health in the nineteenth century as well as "rare glimpses into Victorian-era suicide, homicide, infanticide, abortion, child abuse, spousal abuse, master-slave murder, and slave-on-slave violence."

Stephen Berry is Gregory Professor of the Civil War era and co-director with Claudio Saunt of the Center for Virtual History. He has authored or edited four books on the Civil War in the South.



AHS HOLIDAY PARTY

Thursday, December 14, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Taylor-Grady House

Wine and Catered Refreshments

MEMBERS ONLY

Eat, drink, and be merry with your fellow Athens history buffs! And here's a chance to buy AHS merchandise (books, notecards, maps, video) for holiday gifts!



RECENT AHS PROGRAMS



Mrs. Shaw inspecting the brick at the end of the line, a clip from one of the Graeber family photos



AHS ramblers on Brickyard Loop at the Sandy Creek Nature Center. (Pat McAlexander)

On March 25, at the Sandy Creek Nature Center, Steven Brown presented an informative talk on the history of the Georgia Brick Company, once located on the Center's grounds, and Beth Whitlock told the fascinating story of a Mrs. Frances Shaw, who apparently was a skilled con artist who became involved with the company. (History *is* often stranger than fiction!) Randy Smith, Director of Sandy Creek Nature Center, also gave a brief talk putting the ruins into the modern context of the Center's operation, and after the program he helped Steven and Beth lead participants in the ramble to the ruins of the brickyard. The whole presentation was inspired by the wonderful gift of twenty-six 1911 photos of the brick factory, given to the Hargrett Library by the Graeber family—a gift that started with an inquiry to AHS.

On Sunday, June 25, at the Hargrett Library, Vince Dooley and Sam Thomas presented a program on the Civil War Correspondence of William Gaston Delony and his wife, Rosa. Delony was a lieutenant colonel in Cobb's Georgia Legion Cavalry. Dooley and Thomas's book of the correspondence, *The Legion's Fighting Bulldog*, was available for sale at the program, as was AHS merchandise. After the presentations there was a reception with book signing. This AHS program was co-sponsored by the Hargrett Library. The photos below were taken by Janet Gregory.



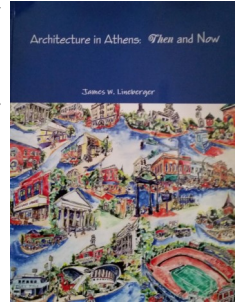
AHS President Mike Kitchens with Katherine "Kat" Stein, Director of the Hargrett Library. AHS is donating part of its map proceeds to Hargrett for map preservation.



Vince Dooley and Charlotte Marshall chat with Sam Thomas as Sam Thomas autographs a book after the program.

HISTORY NOTES

AHS member **James Lineberger** has published *Architecture in Athens: Then and Now*, which traces 23 architecture styles in Athens, from Federal style of the 1820 Church-Waddel-Brumby House, the oldest residence in Athens, to the contemporary styles of the late 20th and the 21st centuries. The 214-page book, printed on high quality glossy paper, contains 500 colored pictures of exteriors and interiors, most of them taken by James himself, as well as descriptions of the styles and individual houses, suggested driving tours, other appendices, a bibliography, and an index. *Architecture in Athens: Then and Now* received the 2017 Athens-Clarke Heritage Outstanding Publications and Programs Award for making "a lasting contribution to our knowledge and understanding of local history, heritage, and historic preservation." For further information or to order the book, contact jameswlineberger@gmail.com.



Maxine Pinson Easom and **Patsy Hawkins Arnold** are currently in the final stages of completing their book *Across the River: The People, Places and Culture of East Athens*. Maxine writes, "The East Athens community, which borders both sides of the Oconee River, is, in reality, the cradle of Athens. Beginning as a small trading settlement located at the Cedar Shoals on the Oconee River, East Athens constitutes a pivotal foundation upon which Athens was built. Since its earliest days, the area has been a rich and significant part of Athens history, and an important story that has been omitted from the Athens history books. Using mailings, inventories, interviews, focus groups and many long hours of research and discussions, we have collected personal stories, memories, and history in an effort to make East Athens come alive. Through these efforts we have been able to identify themes and values that define why East Athens history is important to Athens as a whole, as well as to those who grew up there. We hope these efforts will fill some of the gaps in the recorded history of Athens." The book may be ready for sale by Winter 2018.

The **Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR)**, the second oldest of four major onsite institutes for genealogical education, will hold its 2018 educational forum from June 2 to 7, 2018, in its new home, Athens, at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education. Twenty-two sites had submitted proposals to be the new home for IGHR, which had formerly been located at Samford University in Alabama. AHS's **Laura W. Carter** is now the director of the Institute, which since 1962 has annually provided an educational forum for the discovery, critical evaluation, and use of genealogical sources and methodology through a week of intensive study led by nationally prominent genealogical educators. The Institute regularly enrolls over 200 students from around the country. The IGHR website points out that in Athens, forum attendees will benefit from access to the world-class libraries of the University of Georgia, including the law library and special collections libraries as well as the nearby Heritage Room at the Athens-Clarke County Library. For more information, go to the IGHR website at www.ighr.gagensociety.org.



WORLD WAR II PRISONERS OF WAR AND POW CAMPS IN GEORGIA

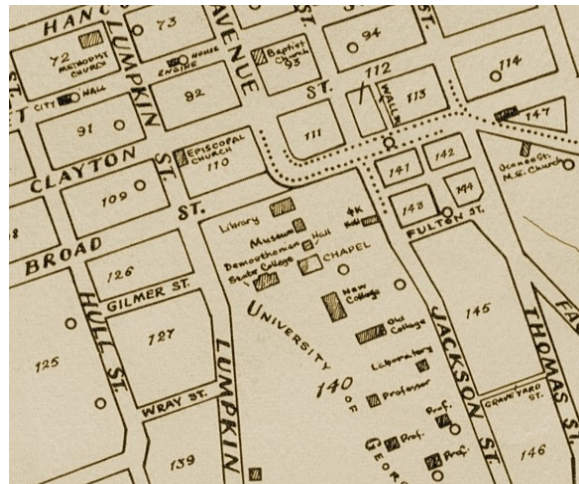
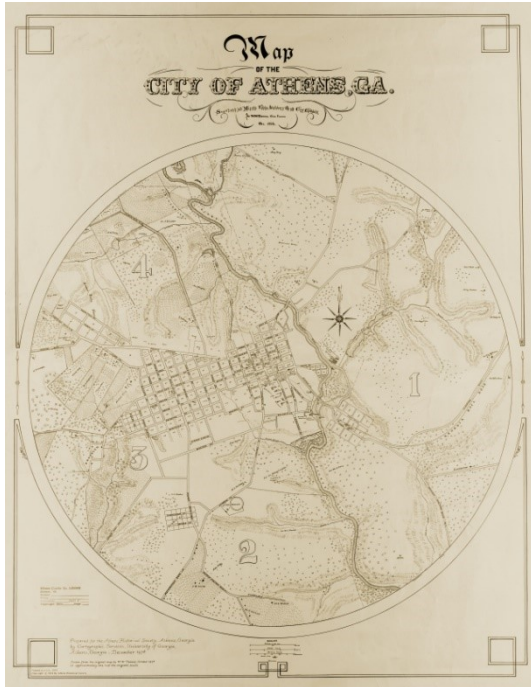
AHS has received this notice from Dr. Kathryn Coker and her assistant, J.W. Wetzel and we are passing it on: "We are researching German and Italian Prisoners of War (POW) and POW camps in Georgia during World War II. We need your help in locating photos, articles, and personal stories of the POWs and camps. Questions like "How did you (or your family) react to having POWs in your backyard?" Your name will appear, if you wish, in the Acknowledgements section of our book."

Dr. Coker retired in 2015 after thirty years as a historian with the Department of the Army and nine years as an archivist at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. She writes, "While the deputy command historian at Fort Gordon, I became interested in WWII POWs in Georgia after the Public Affairs Office requested information on the POW camp for the annual wreath laying ceremony at the POW cemetery in Fort Gordon." If you have information on POWs to share, contact J.W. Wetzel (jasonwetzel1962@outlook.com or 404-819-2200).

NEW AHS MERCHANDISE

The Athens Historical Society now offers high quality reproductions of four significant and beautiful early maps of Athens-Clarke. All are scaled to preserve original proportions, show crisp detail, and, important for our budgets, fit in *standard-sized* poster frames. Below, with descriptions of the four maps, are, on the left , photos of each map, on the right, a detail.

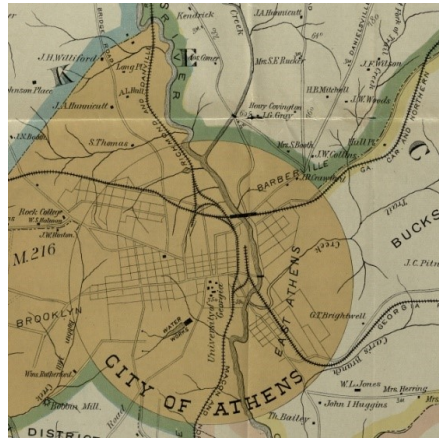
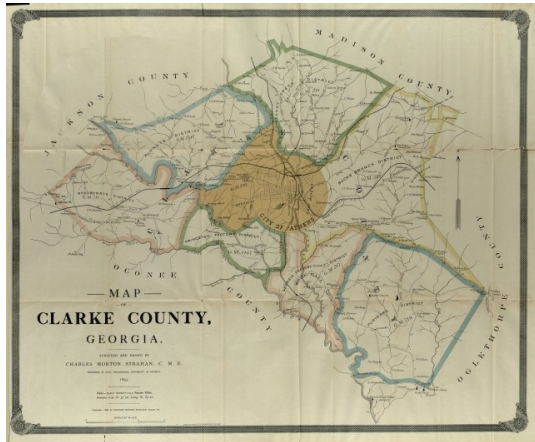
1—Long out of print, we are delighted to offer a new edition of the 1874 “**Map of the City of Athens, Ga**” by W.W. Thomas. In 1974 AHS commissioned this engraved version of the immense hand-drawn original, now in the Hargrett Library. The oldest known detailed map of Athens, it proudly presents the post-war growth of the Classic City and its road, institutions and industry.



2—We continue to offer the remarkable 1909 **Birds Eye View of Athens**. If Ben Epps had been able to climb to this height in his record-setting 1909 flight, this might have been his view. This work of art, however, was conceived in the mind of an artist who walked and sketched the city, remaining strictly grounded. The details on buildings are surprising.



3—A fascinating addition to our line are the two maps drawn by Charles Morton Strahan in 1893 and engraved for his booklet on Athens and Clarke by Rand McNally. First there is the oldest detailed “**Map of Clarke County, Georgia,**” showing farm owners, gins, mills, schools and roads beyond the city limits. It is delicately colored to indicate state militia districts (do you know yours?)



4—Its companion is a similarly detailed “**Map (of) the City of Athens, Ga.,**” showing the growth of the city in the Boulevard district and on the east side since the time of the 1874 map described above. Some speculative projects are also shown – don’t try driving the streets of the Lily Land Company near Five (then Four) Points. Both Strahan maps were originally printed on light-weight paper and folded in the back of Strahan’s book, so remaining copies are usually damaged. We have tried to find the best versions to preserve for the next 125 years in these reproductions for your home or business.



Copies of these maps will be on sale at our next meeting on October 8. We’re pleased to help preserve and spread these unique views of our hometown. This project was accomplished with the cooperation and skilled work of the Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library’s Imaging Lab and its head, Mary Linnemann. A portion of proceeds from sales goes towards the preservation of these and other rare maps in the Hargrett.

While our merchandise—not only these maps, but books, note cards, and the video *The Presence of the Past* — can no longer be ordered from the AHS website, a selection is sold at our programs and will be available at our holiday party. Selections of our merchandise can also be found for sale at **Avid at Five Points**, 1662 S. Lumpkin Street; **Empire South** at 166 West Clayton, the **Athens Welcome Center**, 280 E. Dougherty Street; and the **T.R.R. Cobb House**, 175 Hill Street.

FOUND: ERIC T. FREY, AUTHOR OF “THE FIRE COMPANIES OF ATHENS”

In our Spring 2017 *Athens Stroller* we gave information from a 2004 *Athens Historian* article, “The Fire Companies of Athens” and said the author of the article was unknown. A long-time AHS member wrote to us, “**Eric T. Frey** is the author of that article.... Eric had done years of research into the various fire companies. Unfortunately his name was not on the original text that was given to [the *Historian*] . . . We found it out much later (after the issue had been printed and distributed), so a box giving him credit was published in the 2005 *Historian* as an effort to make amends. . . .”

We contacted an Eric Frey listed in the white pages, and he told us, “Yes, I’m the same guy who wrote the history paper that was published in the *Athens Historian* as ‘The Fire Companies Of Athens.’ . . . When I was researching these sorts of things, I . . . spent days and days scrolling through *Athens Daily News* microfilm at the Heritage Room at the library.” Laura Carter had been helpful to him during his research, and he donated to the Heritage Room a copy of *Athens Clarke County Fire and Engineering Services* (2007), a yearbook profiling the men and women on duty with the A-C-C fire department at that time, compiled by a committee. The book included a shorter version of his history.

Eric served in the United States Marines from 1985 to 1989 in a crash fire and rescue unit, and has worked for the Athens Clarke County Fire and Emergency Services since 1990. He is currently working at Fire Station 8 on Jefferson Road, though, like all fire personnel, he moves around according to the needs of the department. In March 2012 he was featured in an online Athens story as one of two firefighters who rescued a barely conscious man from a blaze in southwest Athens.

Is he still researching? It sounds as though, for a long time, he has been: “Over the years I have done several revisions and updates to my original paper, the most recent in late 2013.” He sent us his updated article, for which we are very grateful. We were glad to make renewed contact with this historian!

Note: Researching and writing must run in the family. Eric’s sister, Valerie Frey Stone, has published many articles and a few history books, “focusing on genealogy, local history, storytelling, material culture, and the everyday home life of our ancestors” (Amazon.com). Her most recent book (under the name Valerie Frey) is *Preserving Family Recipes: How to Save and Celebrate Your Food Traditions*.

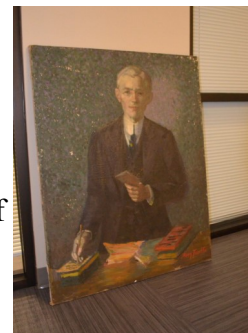
ANOTHER SNEAK PEEK AT THE 2017 *ATHENS HISTORIAN*

The Editorial Committee for the *Athens Historian* (Larry Dendy, Theresa Flynn, and Pat McAlexander) reports that the 2017 *Athens Historian* should be in members’ mailboxes by the end of the year—a holiday present! This year’s edition will be packed with interesting articles and illustrations. Subjects include the history of Princeton Mill (David Rush and Pat McAlexander), the work of painter Mary Jett Franklin (Mary Bondurant Warren), memoirs of Nick Chilivis (abridged by Larry Dendy), “The Families of Boxwood” (John Nicholson), the minutes of the nineteenth-century Athens Historical Society (Steven Brown and Beth Whitlock), and the beginning of aviation in Georgia (Dan Aldridge).

The article about Mary Jett Franklin will include news about some of her recently discovered paintings. One is her portrait of Clarke Central’s popular principal E.B. Mell, recently found and given to the school. Principal Marie Yuran graciously allowed some interested Athens historians to come and see it, propped up outside her office shortly after it was donated. The painting needs restoration, and it is hoped funding can be found.



Eric Frey (reprinted with permission from *The Athens Banner Herald* (<http://onlineathens.com/local-news/2012-03-02/firefighters-rescue-man-blaze-southwest-athens->))



Newly discovered Franklin portrait of E.B. Mell outside Ms. Yuran’s Clarke Central office (Pat McAlexander).

AHS ANSWERS QUESTIONS ON ATHENS HISTORY

In accordance with its mission to expand and share knowledge of Athens history, AHS Board members continue to respond to requests for historical information by legitimate researchers. We do not do homework for students or research for journalists that they could and should do themselves, nor do we take political positions. Following are some recent examples of requests and summaries of our answers.

A resident of Albany, Georgia, asked about a “memory that has haunted [him] since 1975,” when he and a friend biked to a place off then Tallassee Road called “Hole in The Dam”. It was, he said, “what remained of a stone dam that had been built in the early to mid 1800's on the Oconee River. It was 3-4 feet thick, probably 30 - 40 feet high, and the entire center section had been blown out. We were told that Sherman's army had blown the dam.” He wanted to revisit the dam and asked for information about it. Steven Brown replied that it had in fact been “built [about] 1902 to supplement the power generated by the Athens Electric Railway Company's original plant downstream, near the Mitchell Bridge Road crossing. Later the AERC was acquired by Georgia Power. When it no longer was considered economically viable to operate, Georgia Power dynamited the dam with no help from General Sherman..... In recent years the Georgia Power Company has repaired the dam and put the hydroelectric station there back into service.... It is the modern dam you see in aerial photos such as Google-maps.” Brown added that trails in the area were under consideration as part of Athens/Clarke County's development of their recently purchased Tallassee Forest Tract.

We also received a request for assistance in finding “historical records pertaining to the slave purchases of General Burwell Pope, a famous military man and plantation owner in Oglethorpe County and the Athens, Georgia, area.” The writer was “looking for slave purchase receipts, ships manifests records, bills of sale, property records, etc, or anything else which would point to where exactly he, as the owner of my ancestors, made their purchase.” Janine Duncan wrote a detailed response; her suggestions, complete with links, included checking the Hargrett website for its “Historical Manuscripts & University Archives,” the slave insurance records of the Southern Mutual Company, and advertisements in nineteenth-century newspapers, as well as the Library of Virginia in Richmond and the Alexandria Black History Museum, “as the largest dealers worked in those two cities.”



A portion of an ad placed by Burwell Pope in The NC Star 13 Jan. 1826

And on a totally different subject, a researcher from London, England, asked for help with his “bibliography of the crime writer Dame Agatha Christie, whose novel *The Boomerang Clue* was serialized in the *Thomasville Times-Enterprise* newspaper (Georgia) beginning 16 January 1936.” He needed to confirm the end date of the serialization. Janine Duncan offered to find this information for him.

We are also giving help with Atlanta History Center's new interpretative space on the Battle of Atlanta at the Cyclorama. Jesse Garbrowski, the Atlanta Cyclorama Digital Interactive Project Manager, asked for photos and information on the Cook & Brother Armory, which will be included in the Center's digital touch screen display on Georgia battles. AHS Board member Angela Stanley is coordinating our efforts to provide Jesse with materials. Kat Stein at the Hargrett will partner with AHS in this project. Most recently, we were asked for background on the Confederate Memorial on Broad Street, and we directed the inquirer to such sources as Gary L. Doster's essay “An Annotated Compendium of Moved Houses, Churches, Monuments, and Other Structures” in *The Tangible Past*, to his *Postcard History of Athens, Georgia*, and to the resources at UGA's Hargrett and the A-C-C library's Heritage Room.



Confederate Monument
Athens, Georgia

IN MEMORIAM

Henry Ramsey - Former AHS member and editor of the *Athens Historian*

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

In addition to those listed in the spring *Athens Stroller* as AHS members for the March 1, 2017- March 1, 2018 year, we list the following individuals who have also joined or renewed since then. If there are errors or other names which should be listed, please contact editor Pat McAlexander (patmcalex@gmail.com). Also we invite others to join AHS for the rest of the 2017 year. A membership form is at the end of this newsletter. Thank you to all who are helping support the work of AHS.

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AHS MEMBERSHIP FORM

The mission of Athens Historical Society is to share and expand knowledge of Athens and Athens area history. AHS helps researchers with questions about our history, and through lectures, rambles, and publications, brings together people with an interest in Athens' past. We invite you to join us. **Our membership year is from March 1 to March 1.** To join for the rest of 2017, fill out the form below and mail it with your check payable to:

The Athens Historical Society, P.O. Box 7745, Athens, GA 30604-7745

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

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

AHS Email address: athenshistorical@gmail.com

Website: www.athenshistorical.org Facebook page: **Athens Historical Society (Athens, GA)**