



THE ATHENS STROLLER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
ATHENS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SPRING 2018



AHS SPRING PROGRAM ▪ APRIL 15, 3:00 PM ▪ ACC LIBRARY

“YESTERDAY’S VISION: THE ATHENS CITY MASTER PLAN OF 1925”

Steven Brown and Beth Whitlock



A 1925 view, featuring Fords, of what is today North Avenue leading down to the bridge, with the Seaboard railway trestle in the background.



The same location today.

Nearly a century ago, a rapidly expanding Athens already was sporting its slogan “The Classic City,” but it also was suffering many classic growing pains. To chart a future for the tangled network that was early twentieth-century Athens, the nationally-noted planning firm of Warren H. Manning Offices, Inc., Landscape Design and Regional Planning of Cambridge, Massachusetts, was retained to suggest a better way forward.

Manning and his firm came to Athens in 1924-1925 to assess the situation, leaving behind a detailed and richly-illustrated report, as well as maps that both analyzed existing situations and proposed bold new solutions. For those of us who want to know early Athens beyond the beauty of the Taylor-Grady house, the report is fascinating, presenting photos of both everyday problems and everyday assets that Manning found in our home town. Much of this material, for good or ill, represents a long-lost Athens, now beyond the memory of most of us.

Many associate master planning in the early twentieth-century with sweeping geometric replacement of cityscape by marble structures in Greek and Roman style. This “city beautiful” type of redevelopment is reflected in the plans Charles Leavitt prepared for the University of Georgia campus in 1905, urging demolition of Old College to create a grand drive lined with classical buildings, terminating in a temple-like chapel where the Main Library stands today. Manning, on the other hand, worked closely with nature and sought to utilize existing city features that he found of value. This does not mean that he couldn’t be critical or innovative. Turning to the maps, you may be surprised at some of the suggestions, such as a greenway drive along the Oconee River, three convenient airfields for the emerging aviation age, a beltway loop around the east side of the city, and a ravine park system down Tanyard Branch – including an in-town botanical garden!

Join us on **3:00 pm on Sunday, April 15th** at the **Athens-Clarke County Library’s Appleton Auditorium on Baxter Street** as Beth Whitlock of the Athens-Clarke-County Library’s Heritage Room and Steven Brown of the University of Georgia’s Hargrett Library share the history, photographs, and maps of Athens’ earliest known adventure in city planning, during her two-year term. ■

2018 AHS OFFICERS, COMMITTEES, AND GOALS

At the February Athens Historical Society Board meeting, the following officers were elected for the 2018-2019 year:



President
Sam Thomas



Vice President
Larry Dendy



Treasurer
Harry Neely



Secretary
Cindy Galt



Historian
Steven Brown

President Sam Thomas handed out a list of goals for the year: higher visibility for AHS, raise the number of members, increase merchandise sales, continue and increase publications, and enact some youth initiatives. The following committees were set up or reaffirmed:

Finance: Harry Neely

Membership: Svea Bogue and Jordan Shoemaker

Merchandise: Dan Aldridge

Publications:

- *Athens Stroller*, Pat McAlexander, editor
- *Athens Historian*: Larry Dendy, chair; Pat McAlexander and Theresa Flynn
- Charlotte Marshall's *Presence of the Past* (to be updated and reissued)—Mike Kitchens, Mike Kitchens, James Lineburger, Randy Reid. (Former Board member Janine Duncan has already made significant contributions.)

Programs: Larry Dendy, vice president, coordinator. Please give your suggestions for programs to any Board member.

Hospitality: Svea Bogue

Communications/Publicity (website, Facebook, email, posters) : Steve Armour, Janet Gregory, Donnie Summerlin

Youth Committee: Randy Reid, Jordan Shoemaker ■

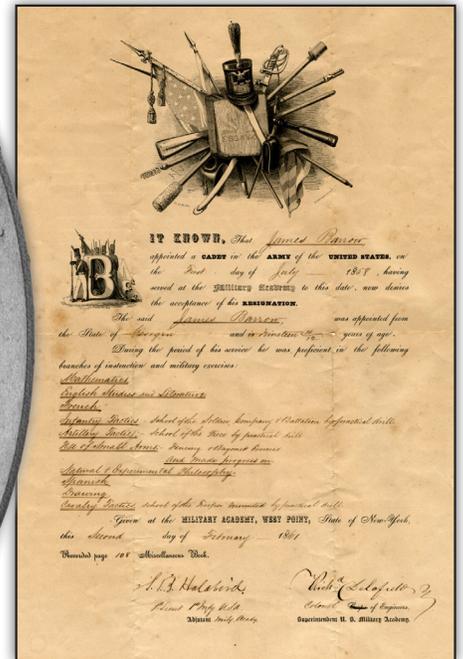
JAMES BARROW, WEST POINT CADET



James Barrow in West Point uniform.



James Barrow in Confederate uniform.



James Barrow's resignation document. All images courtesy of Jim and Sallyanne Barrow.

James Barrow of Athens, uncle of the James Barrow who was City Manager of Athens in the 1890s (see the *Athens Stroller*, Spring 2017) had enrolled as a cadet at West Point in July 1858 at age seventeen. He resigned from West Point in February 1861, at nineteen years and ten-twelfths months of age,” to enroll in the Confederate army.

Sallyanne and Jim Barrow still have his resignation document, “Given at the **MILITARY ACADEMY, WEST POINT**, State of New York, this Second day of February 1861.” The document is interesting not only for the history of the young man’s resignation, but for his course of study, representative of the curriculum West Point cadets followed in those years. The resignation document lists Barrow as “*proficient in the following branches of instruction and military exercises*”:

Mathematics
 English Studies and Literature
 French
 Infantry Tactics: School of the Soldier Company and Battalion by practical drills
 Artillery Tactics: School of the Piece by practical drill
 Use of Small Arms: Reviewing Bayonet Exercise

“and [he] made progress in”
 Natural and Experimental Philosophy
 Spanish
 Drawing
 Cavalry Tactics: School of the Trooper Mounted by practical drill.

Barrow, commissioned as Lieutenant Colonel, was killed in action on February 20 1864, at the Battle of Olustee in Florida. He died in hand-to-hand combat with the remnants of the 54th Massachusetts, the black regiment whose story was told in the movie *Glory*. In terms of casualty rate, the battle was the second bloodiest battle of the war. ■

AHS ANNUAL MEETING

PRESENTATION OF THE 2018 AUGUSTUS LONGSTREET HULL AWARD

Nearly 150 people attended the AHS Annual Meeting on January 28 when the Augustus Longstreet Hull Award was presented to Charlotte Thomas Marshall for her outstanding work in expanding knowledge of the history of Athens. In the Winter issue of the *Stroller* we described Charlotte's many accomplishments. In this issue we quote excerpts from the three speakers who honored Charlotte at the program: Gary Doster, Milton Leathers, and Theresa Flynn. These excerpts give further insights into Charlotte's talents and personality. The speakers combined humor and seriousness, but most of all, they showed their admiration and affection for Charlotte.

Gary Doster: After summarizing Charlotte's many accomplishments, including the large volume on the Oconee Hill Cemetery, he said, "Several years ago Charlotte asked me to help her inventory all the tombstones in Oconee Hill Cemetery. I was delighted to help. We spent many weeks and walked many miles and recorded every inscription on every grave marker in the cemetery – on both sides of the river – twice! I was extremely flattered that she had asked someone like me to help someone like her do something like that. Then after we were all finished, I found out the truth. Charlotte is terrified of snakes and everywhere she goes outside of her house looks 'snakey' to her. She had discovered that I ain't afraid of no snakes, and she had me working side-by-side with her so if we ran up on a snake I could protect her! It turned out that I was a glorified bodyguard with a clipboard and pencil!"

Gary went on to say, "I was born in Athens, and I have lived here and in adjoining Oconee County for 78 years. And I have been interested in Athens history all my life. Charlotte was born 263 miles from here in Donaldsonville, way down in the Southwest corner of Georgia. And I don't know half as much about Athens history as she does. Maybe just one fourth. When Charlotte moved here just over 50 years ago, she fell in love with Athens and George Marshall (I am not sure in what order) and she stayed and adopted Athens as her new home. After a while, she became so much like a native that many people don't realize that she came from somewhere else."

"...[Charlotte Thomas Marshall's] work also provides a foundation, establishing a reliable, sturdy next stage for other stories to be told and events re-examined by future researchers and writers who also love Athens."

Milton Leathers: Milton, always the raconteur, told of the friend who asked him once, 'Are you going to hear Charlotte Marshall's talk?' I started to ask him, "What is she"? But I broke off with, "Never mind. It doesn't matter. Of course, I'm going. I'd go to hear Charlotte Marshall read her spaghetti recipe."

Like Gary, Milton tells of Charlotte's accomplishments and talents: "It's hard for all of us to conceive of how many hours and hours (and years) she has dedicated to her love of producing everything she has given us. She's a researcher, a much-in-demand speaker, a tour guide, a teacher, a mentor to individuals, a friend and encourager, a one-woman reference desk (at almost any hour, day or night), an ever-helpful model citizen in so many ways. Charlotte tells us, 'I inherited an intrinsic interest in our own and in other families' genealogies -- as well as the capacity to retain all the relationships.' That, friends, is a key to her genius—that capacity to retain in her head ALL those relationships!. . . I once heard someone say, 'You give Charlotte a stranger and fifteen minutes, and she WILL find a connection.'

Milton ended with this story: "Charlotte told me that when she was working on the Oconee Hill Cemetery book, she loved some of the old— some charmingly outdated — forms that the obituary writers employed. . . . She said that her favorite was 'golden-hearted.' I have gone over so many excellent and admirable qualities possessed by our award winner today. What is her most important one? . . . I believe that all who know her will understand when I say that Charlotte Thomas Marshall is—above all other things—golden-hearted."



Hull Award winner Charlotte Marshall (center) with AHS President Mike Kitchens (far left), and speakers Milton Leathers, Theresa Flynn, and Gary Doster

Theresa Flynn. Theresa told us that Charlotte “is one of the few people in the world with whom I can have a nearly seven-hour lunch, and as I am walking back into my house, think, ‘Oh, we forgot to talk about.....’ She went on to say,” Charlotte’s curiosity and enthusiasm are an encouragement to other local historians, to the students she takes on tours of Oconee Hill, to the random genealogist lucky enough to be referred to her expertise when they are stymied. Her delight when you come to her with a new story or question about Athens and her people is infectious, her shared disappointment when certain records are unlikely to be found is felt, and she’s eager to assist you in any way she can.”

She concluded, “Though the Augustus Longstreet Hull Award does accentuate the tangible past achievements of its recipients, its most important focus, to me, is . . . that the candidate has encouraged and set an example for other historians to produce similarly useful work. . . . This is where Charlotte’s influence will be most felt over time. Her publications and their unique family-oriented focus are a gift to us all today, but, like the work of Augustus Hull and his father Reverend Henry Hull, her work also provides a foundation, establishing a reliable, sturdy next stage for other stories to be told and events re-examined by future researchers and writers who also love Athens.” ■



Donald Smith, general manager of Oconee Hill Cemetery, presented Charlotte with these flowers at the program.



O. C. Carlyle greeting Charlotte after the program

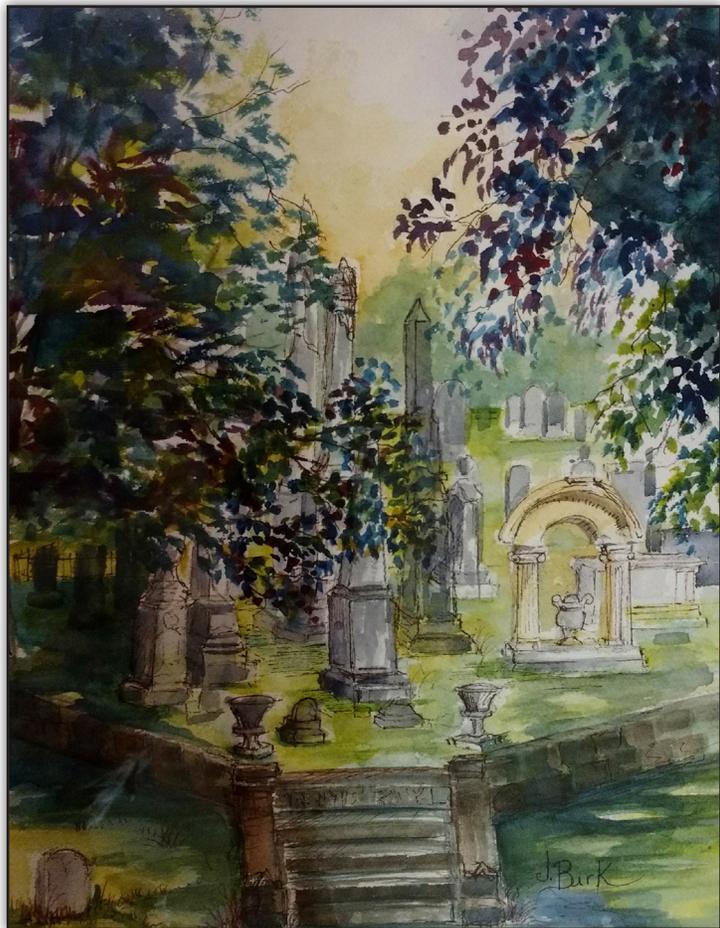


MARY JETT FRANKLIN PAINTINGS IN SOULE HALL

Captioned “An evening in Soule Hall” in the 1924-25 annual report of the State College of Agriculture, this photo shows the three Mary Jett Franklin paintings which she had donated to Soule Hall in the background. AHS hopes to facilitate the restoration of the Jett painting of principal Mell for Clarke Central.



“ATHENS, OUR POINT OF YOU” EXHIBIT INCLUDES HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND SCENES



“Historical Places and Things in Athens” is one category of the Athens Area Plein Air exhibit titled “Athens, Our Point of You,” to be held from June 7 through August 4 at the Lyndon House. (The exhibit is part of a full house show of the Lyndon House Guilds.)

Jack Burk, who wrote the proposal for the “Point of View” exhibit, says that the Athens Area Plein Air Artists group has been in existence for over twenty years and is composed of “artists, retired art educators and professors from UGA, and just people who enjoy painting and drawing.”

The exhibit will include oil paintings, drawings, watercolors, and pastels of Athens scenes; the historic subjects include shotgun houses, antebellum homes, churches, and gardens. History buffs might be interested in stopping by to see the depictions of these and other Athens scenes. ■

“At Rest,” watercolor of Oconee Hill Cemetery, by Jack Burk, who says, “I fell in love with that cemetery. So much statuary and wrought iron!”

“First African Methodist Episcopal Church,” oil painting by Yvonne Studevan. The church, at the corner of Hull and Strong Streets, was completed in 1916. The designer was Louis H. Persley, the first black licensed architect in Georgia; the builder was R. F. Walker.

Yvonne is the four-times-great-granddaughter of Richard Allen, the founder of the African Methodist Episcopal denomination in the United States and its first bishop. Allen’s story is fascinating. Yvonne tells us that he was born on February 14, 1760, enslaved to Benjamin Chew of Philadelphia. He purchased his freedom at the age of twenty for \$2,000 in Continental money, earned by hauling salt to George Washington’s troops at Valley Forge. Once free, he preached and established himself as a businessman in Philadelphia, where he became a religious leader and abolitionist.



WILBUR AND HENRY POPE: MOTORCYCLE MEN OF ATHENS

by John Nicholson

Henry Louis Pope (1886-1960) and his older brother Wilbur Bryan Pope (1884-1952) were both early and avid participants in the new sport of motorcycle riding, which became widely popular across the country in the opening years of the twentieth century.



Henry Louis Pope about 1910 posing with his 3.5 horsepower Yale motorbike outside the kitchen window at the rear of his home at 197 Dearing Street (in later years called *Boxwood*). This picture also appears in “The Families of Boxwood,” (*Athens Historian*, 2017, p. 43) where the subject is erroneously identified as Wilbur Pope.

The new machines, invented in Europe in the 1880s as regular bicycles fitted with small engines, began being manufactured in the United States at the turn of the century, and by 1910 thousands were being produced annually. One of the very first makers was the Consolidated Manufacturing Company of Toledo, Ohio, producers of the “Yale” bicycle and motorcycle. In Athens, various brands, including “Yale,” “Indian,” “Marvel,” “Excelsior,” and “Pope” (no connection to the brothers), were available for between \$125 and \$250 each at the Athens Cycle Company, which opened in 1905 at the corner of North Lumpkin and East Washington Streets. The managers were Alvin A. Jordan and Frank P. Griffith. The shop was directly next door to the historic garage at 120 E. Washington where Ben Epps repaired bicycles, motorcycles, and automobiles while he and his partner Zumpt Huff worked on designing their first airplanes. (Interestingly, Huff and Epps used a motorcycle engine to power their Epps-Huff II airplane. See Dan A. Aldridge, Jr. “Correcting Aviation History” in the *Athens Historian*, 2017.)

Henry and Wilbur were clearly among the most active early Athens motorcyclists. On November 12, 1909, the following notice appears in the *Athens Banner*: “This morning Messrs. Wilbur Pope and A. A. Jordan will set out for Atlanta on their motorcycles. They expect to beat the record of the automobiles that made the run from Athens to Atlanta on Tuesday.” (No follow up article has been found, perhaps suggesting that they did not break the record.) A year later the *Banner* (October 25, 1910) ran the following headline: “Two Athens men on motorcycles make trip to Atlanta in three hours.” The story begins by quoting a telegraph message from the men: “Left Athens eight-thirty; arrived Atlanta eleven-forty; roads good.’ That laconic message,” says the article, “tells the story of a trip by the motorcycle method from Athens to the State capital which was made Sunday by Messrs. W. B. and H. L. Pope, brothers, who went down to take part in the motorcycle races in that city.”

The popularity of motorcycling in Athens must have spread rapidly. Two years later, in 1912, a motorcycle club was formed here with about forty members. On the first of June, twenty of them motored together to Atlanta, and the following month twenty-five members made a “tour” to Augusta, where, according to the *Athens Banner* (July 13, 1912), the Augusta Motorcycle Club “entertained the Athens boys royally.” A year later Henry Pope was elected president of the club, Tige Anderson vice-president, and Morton Hodgson secretary-treasurer. In 1915 the Athens Cycle Company on Lumpkin Street proclaimed itself the club headquarters. Newspaper ads invited enthusiasts to come there and “Join in. Meet all the motorcycle men. Hear some ripping good motorcycle talk.”

Any list of the interesting residents of Dearing Street over the years should certainly include the two early “motorcycle men” Wilbur and Henry Pope. ■



Henry L. Pope



Wilbur Pope. Photos courtesy of Rosemaria Pope, Henry Pope's granddaughter.

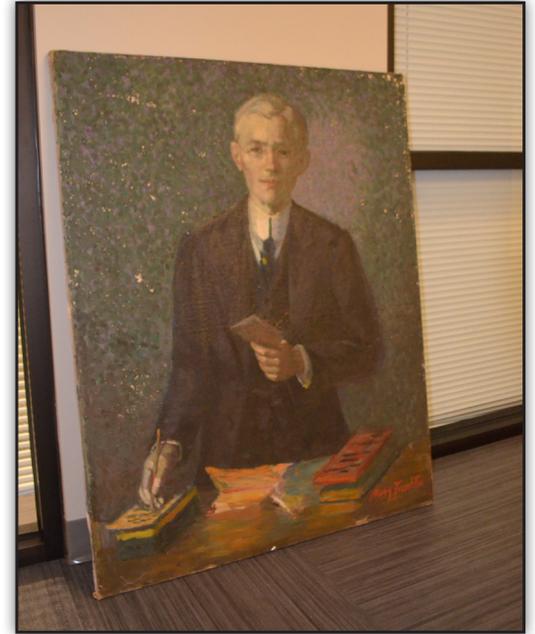
TWO NEW AHS PROJECTS

Mell Portrait Restoration

In light of a suggestion of Mary Bondurant Warren, who wrote the article “Mary Jett Franklin: (1842-1928): Athens Artiste Extraordinaire” in the 2017 Athens *Historian*, AHS hopes to initiate a project to restore Jett’s portrait of E. B. Mell now at Clarke Central High School. If the School District gives permission, the Society would be in charge of soliciting and collecting donations for the restoration and then taking the portrait to a restorer. The location of the restored painting is to be determined. At this point, however, we need volunteers to work on this project. If you would be willing to serve on a Mell Portrait Restoration Committee with Mary Warren, please contact patmcalex@gmail.com.

Digitizing AHS Historians

Past *Historians* will be digitized on the AHS website so that the articles not only can be read there, but picked up and listed by search engines such as Google, Bing, and Yahoo. The Tables of Contents of most *Historians* are already listed there, and will become links to the full article. This project further fulfills our mission to preserve and disseminate materials pertaining to the history of Athens and nearby areas. *Historian* articles have been available in the past mainly locally and in hard copy, but they will now be available world-wide! When the articles are picked up by search engines, researchers would find them when looking up a topic. Eve Mayes has made the PDFS of many *Historians* available to the organization for digitization. Board member Donnie Summerlin is working on this project and as of this writing, has already digitized Volume I.



Unrestored portrait of E. B. Mell at Clarke Central. Photo by Pat McAlexander

HISTORY NOTES

Janine Duncan gave a report on National History Day and our contribution of 65 copies of Al Hester’s *Puttin’ on Blue*, along with copies of Amazon reviews of the book, given to participants. Beth Whitlock and Steven Brown have also put some copies of the book in Athens’ Little Free Libraries.

At the April 15 program, AHS will continue to sell merchandise, including past *Historians* for \$1 per issue and maps. We have sold all our extra issues of the 2017 issue of *The Athens Historian*.

NEW AND RENEWING AHS MEMBERS

These memberships extend to March 1, 2019

If you have been a member of AHS and your name is not on the following list, your membership is due. We hope you will join or renew to stay on our mailing list for our emails, this newsletter, and the *Athens Historian* and to support our mission to expand and share the history of Athens and the Athens area.

Please send your check to AHS, P.O. Box 7745, Athens, GA 30604-7745. Be sure we have your name(s), addresses, email addresses, and the level at which you wish to join. Note: We extended the memberships of those who joined very shortly before the official renewal period of December, 2017, and those names are included below.

Please send any questions or report any errors to Pat McAlexander, patmcalex@gmail.com.

PATRON (\$150)

Larry Dendy
Theresa Flynn and Douglas Hellmann
Carlton Mell
David & Catherine Rush
Lucy and Lothar Tresp
Tom Wilfong

SUPPORTING (\$75)

Athens Welcome Center
Peggy Allen
Svea and Ron Bogue
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Evelyn and Greg Reese
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Ludwig and Ursula Uhlig
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FAMILY (\$50)

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Steven Brown and Beth Whitlock
Ruth and Lee Curtis \$50
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Tom and Jane Keene
Milton and Kammy Leathers
Kip and Jane Mann
Don and Phyliss Nelson 30

Captain and Mrs. L. Sopera
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Sandra and Jim Smith
Joel and Anne Stowers
Sam Thomas
Dr. Hildegard and Richard Timberlake
John and Patty Whitehead
Tom and Ann Wilkins (+21)

INDIVIDUAL (\$35)

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Address Issues. We do not have addresses for members J. Roy Smith and Ron Jackson. The post office returned our mailings to the following members and gave a corrected address. We will send our future mailings to the corrected address. (Members, remember to notify us if your address changes.)

Betsy Bean
Naomi Braff
Ray Broussard
Lee Epting
Amelia Melendez



Sylvanus Morris House on Dearing Street. Morris was author of *Strolls About Athens During the Early Seventies*, serialized in the *Athens Banner* in 1912. His fond reminiscences about his walks in Athens neighborhoods and on the UGA campus established the “stroller” tradition after which this newsletter is named.

≈ *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 \$150.

Name(s): _____

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

I would like to make an additional donation of _____.