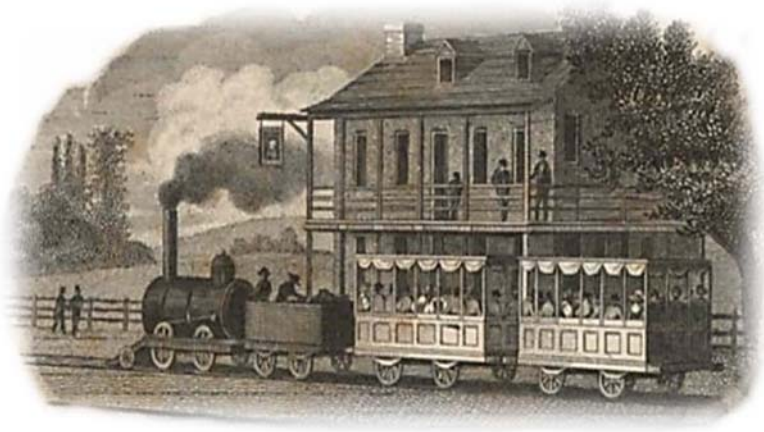


Athens Historian

Volume 16

2016



*Detail from Georgia Rail Road and
Banking Company Note, 1837*

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Athens, Georgia



The purposes of the Athens Historical Society are:

1. To discover, collect, and preserve all materials, especially original and source materials, pertaining to the history of Athens, Clarke County, adjacent counties, and related areas.
2. To disseminate this knowledge for enlightenment of our citizenry through preparing, editing, and publishing historical materials descriptive of Athens and related areas, or sponsoring programs and activities of historical interest.
3. To promote historical research.
4. To promote preservation and perpetuation of historic sites.
5. To bring together those interested in the history of these areas.
6. To promote and stimulate public interest in and appreciation of the history of Athens and related areas, and to develop in every way an understanding of their historical past.

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On the cover: A scene from a \$5 bill issued in Athens by the Georgia Rail Road and Banking Company in 1837. Courtesy of Gary L. Doster.

The Georgia Rail Road Depot on Carr's Hill

by Gary L. Doster

This essay is based on Gary Doster's presentation to the Athens Historical Society on March 20, 2016, at the Russell Special Collections auditorium at the University of Georgia.

The most important event that ever occurred in the history of East Athens was the coming of the railroad and the establishment of the depot on Carr's Hill in 1840. The track was terminated and the depot built on the east side of the river because it would have been very expensive to build trestles across Trail Creek and the Oconee River to bring the railroad into Athens. In addition, Athenians may have been like the citizens of Lexington in Oglethorpe County, and they just did not want to defile the town's peaceful and tranquil environs.

Commercial freight wagons hauled freight, and an omnibus transported passengers between town and the depot via the covered bridge across the river at the mouth of Trail Creek. It took 42 years before the trestle was built across the creek and river so the train could come all the way into Athens. Moving freight to and from the depot became easier after 1870 when the Athens Street Railroad was incorporated by William Dearing. Dearing's little mule-drawn flatcars traveled on rails attached to cross-ties and delivered freight to and from customers as far as College Avenue.

The Georgia Rail Road was among the very first railroads built in Georgia. It was, in fact, the first railroad charter authorized in Georgia when the state legislature granted a charter to several Augusta businessmen on December 27, 1831, "To authorize the formation of a company for constructing a rail road or turnpike from the city of Augusta to Eatonton and thence westward to the Chattahoochee River, with branches thereto ..." But apparently not many of the citizens of the Augusta community were excited about such an endeavor, and the charter was not activated. Two years later, in December 1833, the legislature granted a similar charter to a group from Athens, and the 1831 charter previously issued by the legislature was cancelled. Two

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other railroad companies also were issued charters in December 1833, and all three began construction in their respective areas (Central Rail Road and Canal Company, from Savannah to Macon, and the Monroe Rail Road Company, from Macon to Griffin). Several other railroads soon followed, and by the 1860s there were more than 15 railroad companies in operation in Georgia.

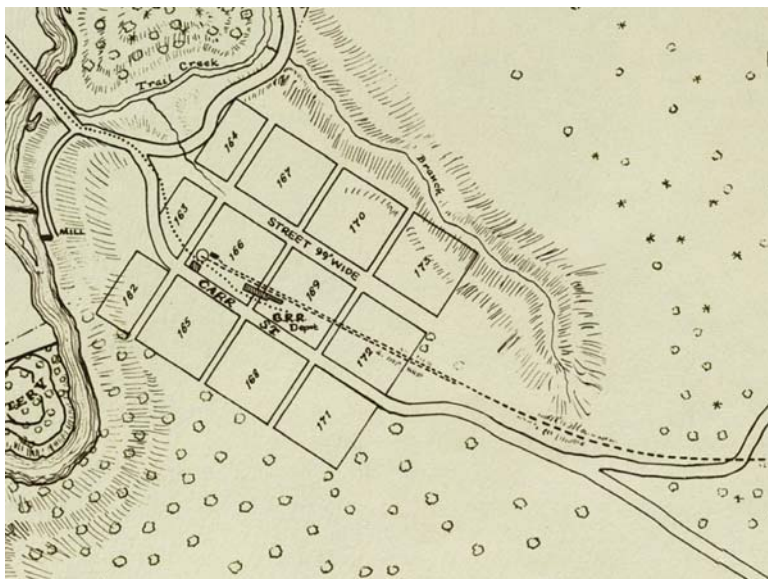


Figure 1. In this excerpt from a map of Athens drawn by William Winstead Thomas in 1874 and reprinted by the Athens Historical Society in 1974, the dotted line from the depot, which crosses the river bridge and continues up Oconee Street Hill, shows the route used by the freight wagons, omnibus, and, after 1870, the Athens Street Railroad.

Carr Street is present-day Oconee Street. The street labeled "Street 99' Wide" is present-day Oak Street. The railroad tracks across lots 166, 169, and 172 became Georgia Depot Street after the railroad was rerouted to a trestle across Trail Creek and the North Oconee River in 1882. Georgia Depot Street was paved in 1955 and the name was changed to Georgia Drive in 1957.

There were only a handful of railroads operating in the United States in 1833 when the first Georgia railroads were chartered, and only one of these was in the South: the South Carolina Canal and Rail Road Company, begun in 1830. Amazingly, by 1833 the South Carolina Rail

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Road was the longest railroad in the world, with 135 miles of track from Charleston to Hamburg (now North Augusta)! Hamburg was just across the Savannah River from Augusta, Georgia, and the founders of the Georgia Rail Road wanted to run their track from that point into the interior of Georgia.

Information about the beginning of the Georgia Rail Road was published in the July 6, 1833, issue of the *Athens Southern Banner* newspaper. The article reported that a group of Athens citizens met in the Chapel at the University of Georgia on June 26, 1833, to discuss the "... expediency and practicability of building a Rail Road from Athens to Augusta, and concluded with a motion ... that a committee be appointed to draw up a report on the subject and prepare it for consideration at a subsequent meeting." The appointed committee consisted of most of the "movers and shakers" in Athens at that time: James Camak, Augustin Smith Clayton, William Dearing, Judge Charles Dougherty, Edward Harden, John Nisbet, Jacob Phinzy, Stevens Thomas, and William Williams. When Judge Dougherty asked to be excused from serving because it would interfere with his official duties, Asbury Hull was selected to serve in his stead.

The July 6, 1833, newspaper article further stated that three days later, on June 29th, the group met in the Chapel again, and the committee submitted an exhaustive report extolling the virtues and potential benefits of building the railroad. The committee report was signed by Asbury Hull as Chairman and James Camak as Secretary. Included in the report was a resolution that a committee composed of John Addison Cobb, George R. Clayton, Leonidas Franklin, Edward Harden, and Thomas Mitchell prepare a document to present to the next session of the Georgia legislature asking them to grant a charter of incorporation to the group to build the railroad. Another committee, with members James Camak, University of Georgia Professor Jackson¹, William Lumpkin, John Nisbet, and James Shannon, was formed to contact proprietors of other railroads and collect information about building and successfully operating a railroad. A third committee, made up of Augustin Smith Clayton, William Dearing, Asbury Hull, Stevens Thomas, and William Williams, was to solicit input and support from the citizens of the villages and towns between Athens and Augusta through which the railroad would run. Other Athenians known to have been involved in founding the Georgia Rail Road were William R.

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Cunningham, Absalom Janes, Alexander B. Linton, William M. Morton, Elizur Lowrance Newton, and Henry B. Thompson.

When the committee charged with soliciting support from people along the proposed route from Augusta to Athens began their work, the citizens of Oglethorpe County were overwhelmingly in favor of the railroad. In fact, a committee chaired by none other than William Harris Crawford and with esteemed members George Rockingham Gilmer, Joseph Henry Lumpkin, John Billups, and others, passed a resolution approving the venture. Their resolution was published in the *Athens Southern Banner* July 27, 1833, and the committee requested that other newspapers in the state also publish it. However, when track was being laid, some of these same influential citizens of Lexington objected to having the train come through their little town “because of the noise that it made and that it frightened livestock.”² Consequently, their depot was placed three miles away, and the community was named Lexington Depot. Because the railroad depot was located there, the little community prospered, and the name later was changed to Crawford to honor local resident William Harris Crawford.³

Asbury Hull submitted the proposal to the Georgia legislature, and on December 27, 1833, the legislature issued a charter to create the Georgia Rail Road Company. The railroad line itself was to be called the Union Rail Road; however, from the beginning, everyone always called it the Georgia Rail Road, and very few references to the name Union Rail Road are seen.

James Wellborn Camak, grandson of founder and first company president James Camak, wrote a brief history of the Georgia Rail Road that was published in the *Athens Banner* on May 30, 1917. Camak reported that “The first meeting of the stock holders to organize, receive the charter, and elect officers and directors was held in the library of the home of James Camak in Athens on March 10, 1834.”

The charter allowed the company to issue 15,000 shares of stock at \$100 per share. The charter provided for “the formation and completion of a rail road communication between the city of Augusta and some point in the interior of the State, to be agreed upon by the stockholders, ... and the company shall have power to construct three Branch Rail Roads, beginning at the point agreed upon as the termination of the Union Road ... one running to Athens – one to Eatonton – and the third to Madison in Morgan County.” The company appointed agents to sell shares of railroad stock in Appling, Athens,



Figure 2. A certificate for six shares of stock in the Georgia Rail Road & Banking Company issued to Thomas H. Wyatt on November 12, 1840, and signed by James Camak as Cashier and William Dearing as President

Augusta, Crawfordville, Eatonton, Greensboro, Lexington, Madison, Sparta, Warrenton, and Washington.

In 1835, the directors of the Georgia Rail Road received permission from the state legislature to allow them “banking privileges,” and on December 18, 1835, the name of the company was changed to Georgia Rail Road and Banking Company. The establishment could now issue banknotes and scrip.

By the summer of 1837, 38 miles of track had been laid from Augusta to a site that later was named Thomson in honor of John Edgar Thomson, a civil engineer from Pennsylvania who had been hired in 1834 at age 26 to oversee the building of the railroad. By the spring of 1840, the railroad bed was graded and track was laid all the way to Union Point.⁴

While work continued on laying track from Union Point to Terminus (later named Atlanta), a 37-mile spur line was completed from Union Point to Athens by late 1840. Some towns along that route that were established or prospered because of the railroad were Woodville (formerly Beeman), Bairdstown (formerly Hurricane Branch), Maxeys (first called Shanty, then Salmonville), Stephens (formerly Antioch Depot), Crawford (formerly Lexington Depot),

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Arnoldsville (first called Edwin or Edwin Post Office), Pope's Station, and Winterville (formerly Winter's Station).



Figure 3. This \$5.00 bill was issued by The Georgia Rail Road and Banking Company in Athens on January 2, 1837, and was redeemable at the branch office in Augusta. It was signed by James Camak as Cashier and William Dearing as President.

The Athens group had, of course, established the headquarters in Athens. However, after the building of the railroad was well underway, some Augusta businessmen succeeded in gaining control of the endeavor, and in May 1841 the headquarters was moved from Athens to Augusta, where it remained for the rest of its existence.

By September 1845, the 172-mile-long railroad was completed from Augusta to Atlanta. Original plans were for the railroad to end in Decatur, but like the residents of Lexington, and maybe Athens, the residents of Decatur did not want it to stop there because they thought it would be a nuisance. In Atlanta, the Georgia Rail Road eventually connected with the Western and Atlantic Rail Road and the Central of Georgia Rail Road; hence the new settlement was called Terminus. The northern limit of the Western and Atlantic Rail Road was Ross' Landing on the Tennessee River, which became Chattanooga. The Central of Georgia Rail Road began in Savannah, went through Macon, and ended in Terminus. Several other railroads also eventually joined together here.

Samuel Mitchell, the man who owned the land where the railroads converged and where the village of Terminus was established, wanted to name the community Lumpkin after former Georgia Governor Wilson Lumpkin, but Lumpkin declined, saying that a county already

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Figure 4. As was common at that time, businesses with “banking privileges” issued currency that benefitted the company in many ways. This is a 50¢ note that was circulated the same as any other form of money, or it could be redeemed for a ten-mile trip on the railroad.

was named for him. Instead, Terminus was rechristened Marthasville in honor of Governor Lumpkin’s daughter Martha. Marthasville flourished and quickly outgrew the “ville” status, and in 1845 J. Edgar Thomson, chief engineer of the Georgia Rail Road, suggested the name Atlanta.⁵

Early in its existence, a steam engine was used to pull the railroad cars from Augusta eastward, but the railroad cars traveling northward on the spur from Union Point to Athens

were pulled by mules. The first railroad passenger cars came into Athens in December 1841, and the first passengers were Mrs. Elizabeth Preston Hodgson (the widow of Edward Hodgson) and three of her children: Anna Blanchall Hodgson, William Valentine Preston Hodgson, and Robert Rowell Hodgson. It was sometime later that the mules were retired and the first steam engine was put into use on the line from Union Point to Athens. One railroad historian claimed that it was as late as 1847 before the first steam locomotive replaced the mules.

On October 31, 1838, in preparation for the railroad to reach Athens, William A. Carr, the owner of 963 acres that made up most of East Athens, gave the use of five acres of land to the railroad upon which the railroad would terminate and where they would build a passenger depot, a freight depot, a warehouse, and other facilities. Carr, then a resident of Leon County, Florida Territory, no doubt realized that this would greatly enhance the value of his remaining 958 acres in Clarke County, Georgia.

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Figure 5. Change bills, or scrip, in the denominations of 5¢, 10¢, 25¢, 50¢, and 75¢ were issued in 1862 and 1863. The Georgia Rail Road and Banking Company was one of the few Southern banks to survive the War Between the States, and continued to redeem its currency, even into modern times. Most of their bank notes were eventually redeemed and destroyed, and the surviving examples are rare and valuable to collectors. As with most change bills, or fractional notes, of the day, each denomination carried a small image of some commonly known animal. It is said that because a large portion of the population at that time was illiterate, this was to assist them in knowing the value of the different denomination in circulation.

In the very early days of the railroad, a nighttime accident near Union Point resulted in the deaths of two men. The directors immediately decided to forbid further operation of the train after dark. Augustus Longstreet Hull, in his *Annals of Athens, Georgia*, published in 1906, shared his thoughts about this: “There is a delightful simplicity about this. Why should trains be run at night anyhow, when people

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ought to be at home with their families or asleep in bed?" Hull shared another interesting observation about the railroad in his book when he wrote: "Even day trains make far better time than wagon teams, and teamsters used to be satisfied with them. A stage line to a summer resort makes seventeen miles in six hours, and its patrons do not complain, but let them get on a railroad, and if they don't go that same distance in half an hour their rights are invaded, their dignity is upset, their digestion is impaired, and their religion is seriously threatened!"

After more than 15 years of use, the original depot became outdated and needed to be replaced. On June 25, 1855, Carr gave the railroad an adjoining lot, 75 feet by 190 feet, to build a new brick passenger depot. The deed specified that the railroad would "... erect and finish on said land ... a good substantial brick depot and passenger house with separate rooms, one for ladies and one for gentlemen, finished & furnished in as good stile & as of as good material as the one at Covington in Newton County, the whole house to be not less than one hundred [feet] by forty-five feet ..."

An article in the *Athens Southern Watchman* dated October 11, 1855, lauded the new brick depot under construction and informed the readers that James R. Carlton was doing the brickwork and "Mr. Witherspoon" was superintending the woodwork. Carlton had originally come to Athens in 1830 when he and Ross Crane acquired the contract to rebuild New College on the University of Georgia campus after the original building burned.

In 1882, the railroad built trestles across Trail Creek and the North Oconee River, rerouted the track, and built a new depot in Athens between Foundry Street and the river. The *Athens Banner-Watchman* published a lengthy and informative article in the August 29, 1882, issue entitled "The Georgia Railroad" to let the public know about the progress of the railroad in bringing the train into town:

Meeting a gentleman thoroughly conversant with the affairs of the Georgia railroad Saturday, we asked him when the extension would be completed.

"In time for the fall business" was his reply. "By the 15th of September the track will be completed to the river, when we will fill up the gaps as fast as possible. The new iron bridge is now ready to be put up. We will not get our new depot ready as soon as we would like, owing to the great

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amount of filling we have to do, but temporary sheds will be erected for the transfer of freight and passengers. We hope early in October to have the iron horse panting on Broad Street.”

“Will you not continue to use the old depot?” we inquired?

“Oh, no; it and all buildings around here will be demolished. In fact, I heard Major Green ask if the brick from it would not answer to build abutments. I think they will also tear up the track from here to where the extension begins.”

“I hear that your new depot will not be much larger than the old one.”

“It is a mistake. I have seen the plan and specifications, and it will be much larger and an improvement in every way over the old one. Our new depot is a duplicate of the one in Atlanta, and of the same size. Here we have room for only unloading one car at a time, but in our new quarters we have three doors on each side for this purpose. There are separate rooms for all the officers, instead of being crammed into one apartment, and different ticket offices for both whites and blacks. There will also be five side tracks to furnish plenty of space for moving trains.”

“How is business with you now?”

“It was never better at this season. We are averaging \$300 a day from this point, and, of course, will greatly exceed that when the fall business opens. We are preparing for a big boom with the extension, and on the 1st of October will run three trains a day, including a fast mail that will bring us several hours nearer Atlanta and Augusta. That is, we will run two trains in the day and one at night. We intend to have new coaches, a fine sleeper, and make this a first-class enterprise, and we intend to give it a test.”

“Your expenses will be greatly increased.”

“Yes, but our business [will be increased] commensurately, I think. Travelers have a very poor opinion of a place where they are rattled in on an old antediluvian coach at the speed of twelve or fifteen miles an hour, and are dumped at some insignificant-looking shanty for a depot. But

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with the extension we will have palace coaches, go at lightning speed, and spare neither labor nor money to create a good impression for Athens. It will greatly aid in advertising the place, and her citizens will doubtless show their appreciation by sustaining us.”

The report concluded, “In the last week work has progressed very rapidly on the extension. Hands are now at work lowering the old roadbed nearly three feet to make it correspond with the extension. The deep cut near the depot will be finished this week when, with a short embankment, the road will be graded to the river. The principal work is leveling the ground for the depot, but even this is pushed rapidly forward. The extension will undoubtedly be ready in plenty of time to haul off the new cotton crop.”

Almost three months later, on November 21, 1882, another item in the *Athens Banner-Watchman* informed Athenians that the old railroad depot in East Athens would be torn down as soon as the track extension into Athens was completed. Another brief note followed, announcing that “The new depot is up, and will soon be completed. It is much larger than the old one.”

A note in the *Athens Banner-Watchman* dated July 10, 1883, said that Mr. R.L. Bloomfield was starting a business in Athens to manufacture clay sewer pipes and clay jugs, and that “One of the guano houses at the old Georgia depot has been moved here for a warehouse.” In the same issue of the newspaper there was another item stating that “The track of the Georgia road leading to the old depot has been torn up and the property thereabouts left stranded high and dry.”

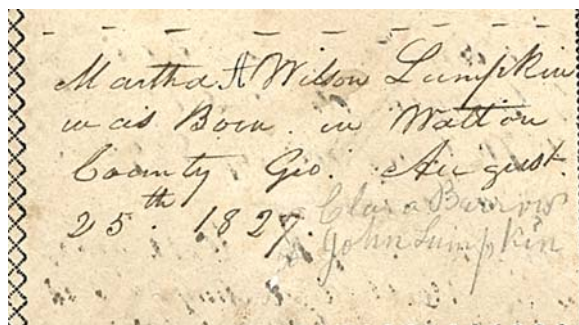
Thus ended the 42-year history of the old railroad depot in East Athens. Carr’s deeds of 1838 and 1855 both stipulated that if the railroad ceased to use the land for the intended purpose, ownership would revert to Carr or his heirs. And that is exactly what happened. Florida Carr was successful in reclaiming the abandoned depot property as set forth in the original deeds from her father to the railroad, and sold it to new buyers. The old track bed became Georgia Depot Street, a residential street that remains today; the street was paved in 1955, and the name was changed to Georgia Drive in 1957.

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ENDNOTES

1. It is unclear whether this is Professor Henry Jackson of the University of Georgia Mathematics Department, the brother of the late Georgia Governor James Jackson, and University colleague of the first Georgia Rail Road president James Camak; or refers to Professor James Jackson of the University of Georgia Chemistry and French Departments, nephew of Professor Henry Jackson, son of the late Georgia Governor, and also a long-time member of the University faculty.
2. Later newspaper articles in 1886 and 1890 recalled that residents of Lexington also were concerned that the railroad would bring smallpox, cholera, and bad women to the community. They soon realized their mistake and petitioned the railroad to run a spur to the depot in Lexington. This was not done; however, half a century later, in 1889, local businessmen financed and built the spur, named Lexington Terminal Railway, which operated under various names until 1947.
3. William Harris Crawford (1772-1834) began his political career as a member of the Georgia House of Representatives from (1803-1807), later served as a United States Senator (1807-1813) and President *pro tempore* of the Senate (1812-1813), before he was appointed United States Ambassador to France by President James Madison in 1813. He returned to the U.S. in 1815 to serve as Secretary of War for a year, before serving as Secretary of the Treasury for three Presidents, from 1816 to 1825.
4. Union Point originally was called Thornton's Cross Roads, which was later changed to Scruggsville for a blacksmith named Scruggs. Railroad officials changed the name to Union Point.
5. When Marthasville was changed to Atlanta, Martha Wilson Lumpkin began to claim that her middle name was Atlanta, and that the town had been named for her a second time! She even went so far as to borrow the Lumpkin Family Bible from a relative, and after it was returned, it was discovered that on the family records page she had added A. as her middle initial, as seen in the image below. When she recorded her marriage to Thomas M. Compton, whom she married in 1878 at age 51, she entered her name as Martha Atlanta Wilson Lumpkin.

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Detail from the Lumpkin Family Bible where Martha Lumpkin added the initial "A." to her name. The Bible entry reads "Martha Wilson Lumpkin was Born in Walton County Geo[rgia] August 25th 1827." Added in pencil in a later hand were the names "Clara Barrow" and "John Lumpkin".

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Easley, One of the Most Historic Homes of Athens: A Tale of a Grand House, A Crack Hotel, and Mistaken Identity

by Elizabeth Allison Whitlock and Steven Allan Brown

The confusion surrounding the identity of the Daniel Easley House, arguably once one of the most significant structures in Athens, has been ably untangled by scholars such as the late Patricia Cooper, Mary Bondurant Warren, James Reap, and, most recently, Hubert McAlexander in his chapter in *The Tangible Past in Athens, Georgia*.¹ Thanks to their work, we think it possible to identify a photograph of this historic structure, and hope a review of its history, such as we can piece together, will contribute to laying to rest an error that has existed since – at least – 1923.

The entrepreneur extraordinaire of the tiny Cedar Shoals settlement of old Jackson County surely was Daniel Easley. His land holdings extended on both sides of the Oconee River. At the river lay his water-powered industrial complex, described in an 1801 article in the *Augusta Chronicle*: “Mr. Easley has an excellent flour mill, a saw and common grist mill, with intention to add a cotton machine. To drive these, the rapids opposite Athens are slightly dammed. . . .”² As early as 1795 he was a political figure in the area, appointed to the committee to select the county seat for Jackson County. This committee could not reach a decision under Easley, and the committee was eventually reconfigured without him. University of Georgia history professor, E. Merton Coulter, suggested that as a crafty businessman, Easley may have delayed the decision so county business would continue to be conducted in his home at Cedar Shoals.³ Perhaps this frontier visionary anticipated that Clarke County soon would be created from Jackson and saw no reason for speed.

In 1801, Easley sold 633 acres of his land west of the Oconee to John Milledge, who presented the land to the state for the site of the University of Georgia. Easley, however, retained land along the present-day Oconee Street, the early settlement’s major road climbing from the North Oconee River to where the University would lay out that speculative village that became downtown Athens.⁴

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By 1801, Easley was living in a house at the crest of the hill on Oconee Street. We are not certain who built the structure, when it was built, or if it was the building where Jackson County business was transacted, as mentioned above. High above the damp of the river with a beautiful view of the valley to the east, it was located within walking distance of the town spring. This bold spring, still running along Spring Street in Athens, is mentioned as a major asset of the Milledge purchase and served as the water supply for early Athens. Perhaps Easley also used his home as an inn; when Josiah Meigs arrived to establish the University in 1801 he lodged with Easley until his campus home was completed. Meigs wrote, "In descending the eastern banks of the Oconee river, we discover through the trees Capt. Easley's house, in which I now reside, which appears to be on the top of a mountain."⁵

In 1803, Methodist circuit-rider and educator Reverend Hope Hull arrived in Athens and purchased the Easley House as his home. According to Hull's son Henry, Easley moved to his lands on the east side of the river. He continued as a vital part of the community, operating a toll bridge as well as his dam and mills.⁶ The Reverend Hull soon was appointed to the University's Board of Trustees and, with President Meigs, was charged with mapping the campus and Athens. Perhaps that is why the earliest map of Athens, included in the Board of Trustees minutes of May 31, 1805, prominently features "Mr. Hull's" property at the bend in Oconee Street. (Figure 1) Scale seems inconsistent in the map, so we cannot be sure if the rectangle represents the lot or the house itself, drawn out of scale. As we will see in later views, the house was built even with the road.

Recalling his arrival in Athens, Henry Hull recounted the delight he took in watching the goats on the hillside opposite their new home, which he characterized as "the best house in the place."⁷ In a few years, however, Hope Hull built a Methodist meeting house and a new home on the "Watkinsville Road," today's South Lumpkin Street. Moving his family to this new home in the proximity of the University of Georgia's Spec Towns Track, we assume he sold the Easley House around 1805-1810.⁸

Unfortunately, the official record of land transactions in Clarke County is rife with gaps, perhaps because much business was handled by "gentleman's agreement" and private legal papers. We do not know who purchased the Easley-Hull House; we have found no record of the

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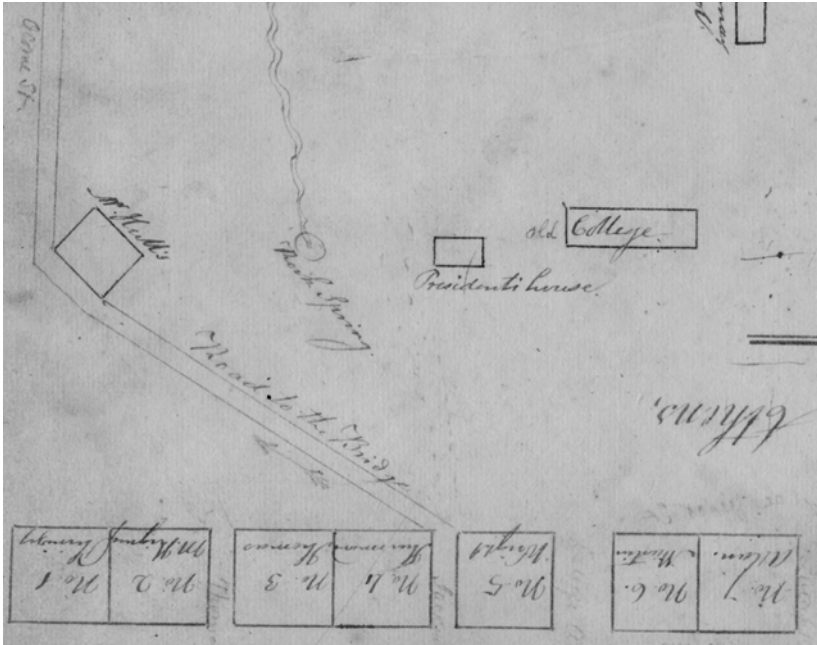


Figure 1: Detail of the 1805 survey of the University of Georgia and Athens. Inverted for greater clarity, this segment is oriented towards the south, away from the lots sold along what would become Broad Street. It shows the Easley-Hull property to the left, along the “Road to the Bridge” (today’s Oconee Street), as well as the “Rock Spring,” and “old College” – the “old” seemingly penciled in at a later date.

transaction and the usually informative Henry Hull was still a child, so we really can’t blame him for not including the detail.

In his 1870 recollections in the *Athens Southern Banner*, Henry Hull does mention that around 1810-1820 a colorful Mrs. Sarah King resided in Athens. Mrs. King inherited a great deal of money from her first husband, only to see it dissipated by a second. After his death, she and her children relocated from Savannah to Athens, buying the Easley House and a farm on Trail Creek. Trying to maintain the elegant life style she had enjoyed in Savannah, Mrs. King eventually had to sell the Easley House and live on her farm.⁹

In the summer of 1828, Mrs. King advertised for sale a house in the town of Athens located between those of L.A. Erwin and Mr. Mitchell. The house is described as large, convenient, and suitable for a private

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dwelling or rooming house. Her neighbor to the east was Leander A. Erwin, a noted hotel and tavern operator of early 19th century Athens.¹⁰

In the 18 months before July 1828, newspaper advertising and other accounts mention Erwin's "tavern," "house," or "assembly rooms." A speech coach claiming to cure stammering and a portrait artist both advertised as being available in rooms at Mr. Erwin's house. The 1828 University commencement ball was held there, and celebrations of the 4th of July for both 1827 and 1828 involved Erwin as a host.¹¹ Did Erwin buy Mrs. King's house to offer more spacious accommodations to his guests? In 1906, Augustus Longstreet Hull, son of Henry Hull, noted that only three houses of the 1830s remained on Oconee Street, the Easley House being one, described as "at the crossing of the Central railroad. This last was the crack hotel of the place, kept by Leander Erwin, and had eight rooms for the accommodation of its guests."¹² While the phrase "crack hotel" may lead modern readers to think of something akin to an opium den, the adjective is clearly meant to mean something of superior quality, as in the phrase "a crack marksman."

In early 1830, it was announced that Leander Erwin, "who for several years had kept a public house in this place," had purchased a hotel at Indian Springs and that "Mr. Dawson of Madison" [Morgan County] was renting Erwin's establishment.¹³ By November, a John Jackson was announcing that he had "taken the house formerly kept by Leander Erwin, and more recently by John Dawson, which he will conduct under the title of the Franklin Hotel."¹⁴ It should be noted that this precedes the 1847 Franklin Hotel that still stands at Broad and Thomas streets. John Jackson's proprietorship seems to have lasted until 1834, when Samuel Galliher announced his purchase of the Franklin Hotel, formerly owned by John Jackson. Perhaps Galliher ran into some difficulty with his purchase, for a year later he again advertised the opening of Galliher's Hotel in the tavern formerly occupied by Leander A. Erwin.¹⁵

1. The name "Galliher" appears on the Easley lot on a rather imprecise map of Athens that was owned by Athens attorney John Newton. This map is undated, but from buildings shown on the University of Georgia campus we can assume it was drawn between 1832 and 1836.¹⁶ By September of 1835, a

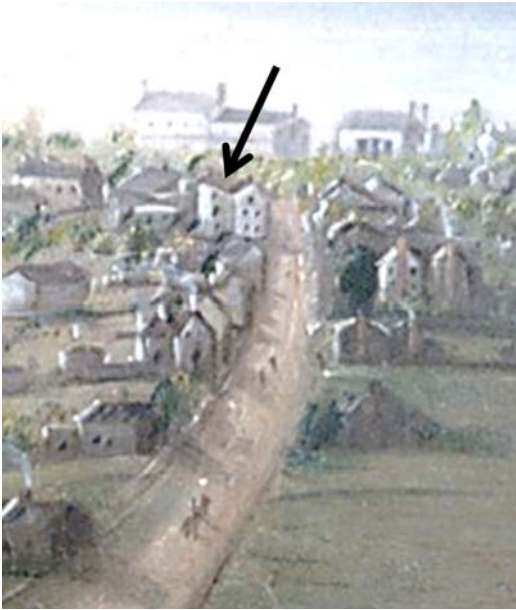


Figure 2. This detail of the 1845 painting by George Cooke, View of Athens from Carr's Hill, shows Oconee Street climbing from the river. The large white house on the left side of the street near the crest of the hill seems most likely to be the Easley House from descriptions. By this time it probably was the home of Edward R. and Anne Hodgson and their growing family.

James T. Bradford was offering for sale “the well known tavern now in his possession, formerly owned by Mr. L.A. Erwin, and subsequently by Mr. John Jackson.”¹⁷ Unless there are two or more buildings involved with Erwin and Jackson, Galliher’s ownership was so brief that he doesn’t even merit mention in the advertising.

Mr. Bradford tempted buyers with the statement that the hotel “... will, it is expected, be the nearest Public House to the starting point of the Rail Road.” Crack hotel though it may have been, Bradford noted that “the Establishment,

notwithstanding the improvements that have been made upon it in the past five years, (and) the past and anticipated increase in the value of the property as well as business, is now offered upon the same terms for which it sold in 1833.”

Given that the Easley House was large and faced the Federal route leading into the gold rush territory of Georgia, it is no surprise to see such furious hotel activity centered around it in the 1830s. We have not found the outcome of Bradford’s attempt to sell, but the house was soon to return to being a private dwelling. In 1839, Edward Reginald Hodgson came to Athens, soon to be followed by his two brothers, William Valentine Preston Hodgson and Robert Rowell Hodgson.

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In 1842, the three announced the establishment of the E.R. Hodgson and Brothers carriage works, on the opposite side of Oconee Street from the Easley House. At some point Edward Hodgson bought the house to make it into his own home. If he didn't buy the house upon his marriage to Anne Bishop in 1842, as Hubert McAlexander suspects, its spaciousness would become desirable as their family grew to a total of 12 children.¹⁸ Hodgson was still living there when Henry Hull was writing his 1870 columns, referring to the Easley-Hull House as Hodgson's house, and we suspect he



Figure 3. A stylized version of the house with a tortured roofline is shown in this detail from an 1861 view of Athens appearing in John Warner Barber's Our Whole Country, an illustrated survey of the United States. The woodcuts, while fascinating, seem to include many errors and must be considered as more an impression of Athens than an exact portrait. It seems likely that the awkward rectangle with vertical lines on the right of the structure was intended to represent a two-story portico. Unhappily timed to appear in 1861 when the country was no longer whole, the delightful illustrated survey was not a commercial success.

lived there until his death in 1874.¹⁹ His widow, Anne, outlived him by 18 years, but it is unclear how long she stayed in the house. In the census of 1880 she appears to be living on College Avenue.²⁰

Two major tools for tracing local structures began to appear in the 1880s: the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Athens and the Athens city directories. Sanborn maps document districts that are of significance to insurance companies, showing streets, structures with basic information about their uses and construction, and contemporary street addresses.

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Because Oconee Street was sufficiently industrial by the time of the first Athens Sanborn maps in 1885, we have a view of the footprint of the house as a two-story structure fronting directly on the street with a two-story portico on the front and a one-story wing to the back. The house is featured in subsequent maps held by the University of Georgia Libraries that are available online through the Digital Library of Georgia.²¹

The city directories for Athens, also available through the Digital Library of Georgia, list residents alphabetically, giving their name, address, and occupation.²² Beginning in 1914, there is also

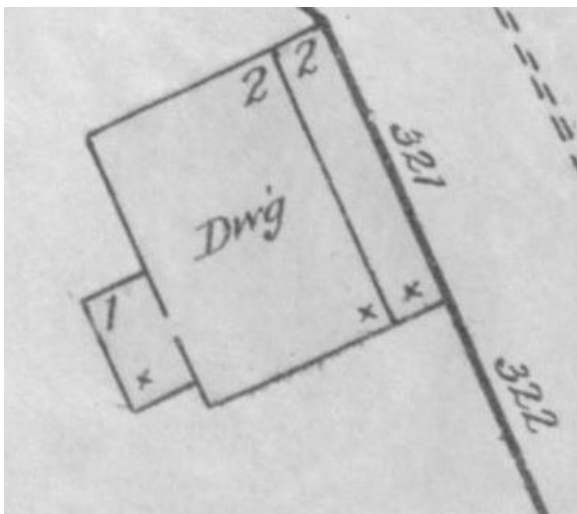


Figure 4. A detail from a sheet of 1885 Athens Sanborn maps shows the footprint of the Easley House indicating a two-story frame structure with a two-story portico and a one-story addition to the back. The house is being used as a dwelling and stands at the very edge of Oconee Street with a house number of 321 in the 1885 system of numbering.

an index by street name and address. The addresses in the first Athens directory of 1889 do not correspond to those shown on the Sanborn maps of the 1880s and we have not been able to identify an entry for the house. In the next extant directory of 1894 the structure, now numbered as 402 Oconee Street, is a boarding house operated by a B.A. Patterson, probably the Robert A. Patterson who is listed there in the 1897-1898 edition. For the rest of its life, roughly 45 years, the building is shown in city directories as a boarding house, largely housing the craftsmen of the increasingly industrial district. A one-story wing added between 1888 and 1893 is listed at different times as a grocery, a fruit store, and a cobbler's shop.

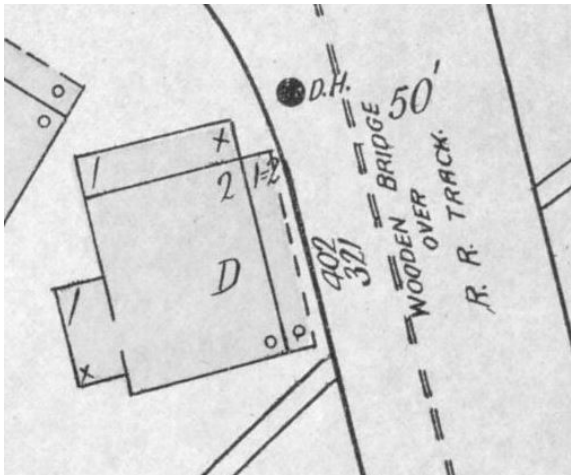


Figure 5. Detail from the 1893 Sanborn maps for Athens. The Central of Georgia Rail Road line is shown passing under the road, close to the lower right corner of the house. A visit to the site today shows the depth of the cut below the house to accommodate the line. The map indicates an address of 402, although the old address of 321 is also given. A one-story wing has been added to the upper side of the house; numbers added to the portico at the right, "1=2," indicate that there is only an entry level floor, although the portico is two stories high.

The 1893 Sanborn maps show a change that must have greatly undercut the desirability of the venerable house, if not its literal foundation as well. The Central of Georgia Rail Road had cut an underpass to the very corner of the house. This cut is easily viewed on Oconee Street today, marking the location of the house.

We have an artist's view of the house, still dominating the

crest of the Oconee Street hill, in the *Birds Eye View of Athens, Georgia* 1909. (Figure 6) This time the artist showed a chimney on the southwest wall of the house as well as the portico to the front.

So far, our images of the house (1845, 1861, 1909) have varied in detail and have been a small part of larger views. Fortunately, an unknown photographer did take a photo of the house. The photograph, mounted on cardboard, is dated 1910 with the inscription, "Old Leander Erwin Hotel. Crack Hotel of Athens in 1830," a phrase seemingly lifted from A.L. Hull. (Figure 7)



Figure 6. Detail from the Birds Eye View of Athens, Georgia 1909. Surrounded by flat-roofed industrial development, the Easley House pitched roof and two-story portico stand out. Note the Hodgson Oil Building to the left of the house, now restored and standing in 2016.

The house is a fascinating structure. On the side facing us it appears to be a large structure with simple, though powerful, classical features in a Federal style. At the front, however, a doorway and floor-to-ceiling windows in the Greek Revival style have been added. The two-story front portico, in contrast, sports Gothic quatrefoil pillars. This combination is similar to that found on the Treanor House at 1234 Lumpkin Street in Athens, though the ornament between the Easley House pillars appears to be a cruder folk-Gothic invention than that of the Treanor House. (Figure 8) The now-demolished Lewis Lampkin House, moved from Jackson Street to 897 Milledge Avenue, featured similar pillars, with wildly whimsical ornament. (Figure 9) Architectural historian James Reap speculated that the Lampkin portico, featuring brackets with the Gothic pillars, was added to that house in the 1850s.²³

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Similarities with these other homes of the 1840s and 1850s suggest that the Easley House was updated by the Hodgsons in the 1840s or 1850s, incorporating popular Greek Revival and Gothic features. We do not know how the main Federal structure may have been modified over time. While the main house may appear to be a rather sophisticated building for the Cedar Shoals era of ca. 1800, it must be remembered that a water-driven sawmill was among Easley's early enterprises.



Figure 7. At present the only known photograph of the Easley-Hull-King-Hodgson (etc., etc.) House, dated on the back as taken in 1910. In the foreground the crude one-story commercial wing added between 1889 and 1893 is visible. Nailed to the far end of the portico is a rather doubtful-looking safety railing to keep pedestrians and vehicles from falling into the railway cut. Beyond is the wall of the Hodgson Oil Building.

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Figure 8. Left, detail of the 1910 Easley House photograph showing Greek Revival and Gothic trim. Right, similar work on the front façade of the Treanor House in 2016.



Figure 9. The Lewis Lampkin House also featured Gothic pillars that appear to be quatrefoil in nature. It was moved from Jackson Street to 897 Milledge Avenue and demolished in the 1960s.



Figure 10. The charming Sterling Lane-William Hodgson House, across the street and down the hill from the Easley House, was misidentified in this plate from a remarkable 1942 exhibit on Athens architecture mounted by the Athens chapter of the Colonial Dames of America.

In spite of train traffic at its ancient roots and its dilapidated appearance in 1910, the venerable structure lasted into the 1930s. In the 1937-38 Athens directory, however, we find it has been replaced by an Advance Oil filling station. By that time, however, it had already suffered the indignity of being forgotten. As early as 1923, Athens historian Sylvanus Morris, remembered for his 1912 publication *Strolls About Athens in the Early Seventies*, had mistakenly identified another house as Easley's. This home, farther down Oconee Street, was once occupied by Edward R. Hodgson's brother W.V.P. Hodgson and later by Horace Martin of Klein and Martin, purchasers of the Hodgson carriage works.²⁴ The error appeared again in a notable exhibit on early Athens architecture staged by the Athens chapter of the Colonial Dames of America, as shown in Figure 10. As mentioned earlier, this mistake was decried by a number of local historians over the years and we hope

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has been put to perpetual rest by Hubert McAlexander in his essay in *The Tangible Past in Athens, Georgia* in 2014.

Although we had hoped to find a more lucid trail of official deed records, we believe that the 1910 photograph, and studies of maps, pictures and narratives, demonstrate that the Easley House stood for at least 137 years and that we have several depictions and at least one photograph of it. We hope more images may emerge after this article. During its long life, the impressive structure sheltered many eminent and noteworthy Athenians. It has been tempting to stray further into the biographies of the residents, but that is not the purpose of this article.

In 2016, the real site of the Easley-Hodgson House is a paved parking lot overshadowed by a billboard along the railway cut. Across the street (and down to the former site of the Lane-Hodgson House) a massive multi-use complex is rising, filling the eastern hillside where Henry Hull delighted in watching goats at play down the slope to the North Oconee River at the dawn of Athens.



Figure 11. A last view from the site of the Easley House porch to Henry Hull's goat-filled hillside across Oconee Street as construction began in 2016.

ENDNOTES

1. McAlexander, Hubert. "Three Oconee Street Historic Homes." *The Tangible Past in Athens, Georgia*. Athens, GA: Marshall Books, 2014, pp. 11-16. We are grateful to Hubert McAlexander, Charlotte Thomas Marshall, and Gary Doster for their ideas and comments relating to the Easley House. We particularly thank Gary for his insightful editing.
2. *Augusta Chronicle*, August 1, 1801, p. 3.

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3. Coulter, E. Merton. *The Toombs Oak, The Tree that Owned Itself, and Other Chapters of Georgia*. Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press 1966, pp. 33-35.

4. Hull, Augustus Longstreet. *Annals of Athens, Georgia, 1801-1901*. Athens, GA: Heritage Papers, 2014, pp. 1-2. [hereinafter listed as Hull, A.L. *Annals*, 2014.]

The various writings of the Hulls serve as the backbone of the history of 19th century Athens. In 1870, Henry Hull wrote a series of unattributed columns for the *Southern Watchman*, recording Athens history to 1825. After Henry's death, his son Augustus Longstreet Hull edited the columns into a small book, *Sketches from the early history of Athens, Georgia 1801-1825*, by Doctor Henry Hull (Athens, GA: H.L. Cranford, 1884). Later A.L. Hull extended his father's work with *Sketches of Athens, Georgia from 1830 to 1865* (Athens, GA: Women's Work, 1893). Finally, Hull combined all of this history with further editing and additions of his own to produce *Annals of Athens, Georgia 1801-1901* in 1906. We have used the improved third edition of this last work, issued in 2014 by Heritage Papers, though at times we have gone back to the original newspaper columns of 1870 for details of value.

5. *Augusta Chronicle*, September 5, 1801, p. 3.

6. Hull, A.L. *Annals*, 2014, pp 2-3.

7. [Hull, Henry.] " 'Tis Sixty-five Years Since." *Southern Watchman*. April 20, 1870, p. 3. Note that Athens newspapers cited in this article were accessed June 2016, through the Digital Library of Georgia.

8. Hull, A.L. *Annals*, 2014, p. 27.

9. [Hull, Henry.] " 'Tis Sixty Years Since." *Southern Watchman*, October 19, 1870, p. 3.

10. *Athenian*, July 22, 1828, p. 3.

11. *Athenian*, March 9, 1827, p. 3; September 14, 1827, p. 3; July 6, 1827, p. 2; July 1, 1828, p. 1.

12. Hull, A.L. *Annals*, 2014, p. 65.

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13. *Athenian*. January 5, 1830, p. 2
14. *Athenian*. November 30, 1830, p. 3.
15. *Southern Banner*. January 4, 1834, p. 4; January 22, 1835, p.3.
16. *Plan of the Town of Athens, Old Town, Property of J.H. Newton, Esq.* Undated. Athens City Records-Maps, Plans, & Blueprints, Collection MS 1633a, Folder 1B, Hargrett Rare Books and Manuscript Library, University of Georgia.
17. *Southern Banner*, September 24, 1835, p. 3.
18. Gordon, Hugh H., Jr. *The Family of Edward Reginald Hodgson and Mary Virginia Strahan*. Athens, GA: 1953.
19. [Hull, Henry] “ ’Tis Sixty-five Years Since,” *Southern Watchman*, June 1, 1870, p. 3.
20. U.S. Census for 1880. Athens, Clarke, Georgia. Roll 140, Family History Film 1254140. Page 285C. Enumeration District 012. Image 0151. Accessed July 2016 through Ancestry.com.
21. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Georgia for Georgia Towns and Cities, 1884-1922. Digital Library of Georgia. Accessed June 2016 at <http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/sanborn/CityCounty/Athens.html>. The Hargrett Library also owns a set of 1926 maps that were updated into the 1950s with pasted additions, including the filling station that eventually replaced the Easley House around 1937. This set has not been scanned due to copyright restrictions.
22. Athens city directories were accessed in June 2016 by searching for “athens city directories” at the Digital Library of Georgia at <http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/>. Paper and microfilm copies of many of the directories are available at the University of Georgia Libraries Map and Government Information Library and the Athens-Clarke County Library’s Heritage Room.
23. Reap, James K. *Athens: A Pictorial History*. Virginia Beach, VA: Donning Co. 2001, p. 39.

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24. Rowe, H.J., publisher. *History of Athens and Clarke County*. Athens, GA: McGregor Co. 1923, p. 23.

PICTURE CREDITS

All images noting Hargrett Library as the source are used courtesy of the Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of Georgia.

Figure 1. *PLAN of part of the Lots laid off in Athens, ordered to be recorded May 31, 1805*. University of Georgia Board of Trustees. Minutes, 1794-1817. Map appears after entry for May 31, 1805. Hargrett Library, UA97-104, Box 1.

Figure 2. George Cooke, artist, *View of Athens from Carr's Hill*, 1845. Hargrett Library.

Figure 3. "Southeastern View of Athens." In Barber, John Warner. *Our Whole Country*. New York: George F. Tuttle and Henry M'Cauley, 1861. Volume 1, p. 755.

Figure 4. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. Athens, Georgia, 1885, Sheet 3. Accessed June 2016 in the Digital Library of Georgia at <http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/sanborn/CityCounty/Athens1885/Sheet3.html>.

Figure 5. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. Athens, Georgia 1893, Sheet 3. Accessed June 2016 in the Digital Library of Georgia at <http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/sanborn/CityCounty/Athens1893/Sheet3html>.

Figure 6. *Birds Eye View of Athens, Georgia* 1909. Morrisville, PA: Fowler & Downs, 1909. Hargrett Library. Call number hmap 1909b5.

Figure 7. "Athens-Georgia, Leander Erwin Hotel" 1910. Georgia Photographic Files. Hargrett Library. MS 3705, Box 2, Folder 25.

Figure 8. Photograph of Treanor House, July 2016, by Steven Brown.

Figure 9. Charles A. Peterson. Photograph of 897 Milledge Avenue, Athens, for the Historic American Building Survey. March 24, 1935. HABS GA, 30-ATH, 22-1. Accessed in June 2016 at www.loc.gov/pictures/item/ga0095.photos.056216p/.

Figure 10. Daniel Easley House, National Society of Colonial Dames of America, Athens Chapter. Images of Athens Houses. ca. 1942. Hargrett Library. MS 1482, box 1 folder 1.

Figure 11. Photograph looking east toward North Oconee River from site of the Daniel Easley House, early 2016, by Steven Brown.

**Slavery and the University of Georgia:
A Preliminary Look from the Classroom**

by Scott Nesbit and Audrey Thomas

This essay is based on a presentation made by University of Georgia Professor Scott Nesbit and teaching assistant Audrey Thomas of the College of Environment and Design to the Athens Historical Society on October 16th, 2016 at the Russell Special Collections auditorium at the University of Georgia.

The University of Georgia's North Campus features historic buildings; the Arch, the symbolic center of the University; and beautiful landscaping that shows continuous care. Implicit in this landscape and its carefully curated, historic built environment is the University's reliance upon slavery in its formative years. In fall 2015, students in the Historic Preservation program at the University of Georgia began digging into this history in order to bring this implicit story to the surface as part of the course *Public History and Technology*.¹

Throughout this project, our class conducted research using a wide variety of resources in an attempt to better understand the role of slavery on the University of Georgia's campus. We began the semester by reading books which detailed the connections between slavery and the American university system and became familiar with the historical development of the University of Georgia. We then delved into primary source research, with resources such as the Board of Trustees Minutes, Faculty Minutes, and the Prudential Committee Meeting Minutes. The Board of Trustees Minutes showed the University allocated funds each year to rent out enslaved people and described some of the jobs they would have done, such as repairing buildings, cleaning rooms, and ringing the bell. The Faculty Minutes gave insight into some of the interactions, often violent, which occurred between students and enslaved people. The Prudential Meeting discussed the hiring of specific enslaved people, as well as building houses and privies for them.

Each student also had the opportunity to research independently and share findings each week in order to approach the topic from a

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variety of angles. In these endeavors, we were able to pull together a variety of primary and secondary resources. Different themes appeared through this research, which we were able to divide into smaller exhibits and pages on the website. Slavery, we found in these sources, was a multifaceted institution.

In the University archives we found that slavery was an essential, if in some ways hidden, part of the operation of the University of Georgia. Franklin College, as the University was most commonly known then, owned no slaves itself. And yet every day, enslaved Athenians labored on behalf of the students and faculty of the University. They chopped wood, shined shoes, and cleaned classrooms, offices, and dormitories. The University allocated funds for their housing. Each year, the Board of Trustees passed budgets that included the hire of enslaved laborers, a practice common in small and large towns alike in the pre-emancipation South.² These records record the lives of enslaved people as a line item in a list of expenses.

Local individuals, by and large, claimed ownership of those who worked in and around the University. The Prudential Committee, an administrative board responsible for overseeing much of the work of the University, contracted in 1842 with Sarah H. Harris for the hire of her “negroes” as college servants for \$100 each. The same year, “the negro man Patrick,” who may or may not have been enslaved, was hired to tend the Botanical Garden for \$100. Professors and University presidents, too, owned enslaved people who worked on campus. Alonzo Church, the University president for thirty years, named six enslaved people in his will – Elvir (a girl about ten years old), Alfred, Louisa, Hanson, Caroline, and Sophia (and her children). Enslaved people were bought and sold by members of the University community, including by professors, as the bills of sale presented in this issue of the *Historian* attest.³

Black Athenians were essential to the University, however, not simply as financial assets nor as labor hired from their masters. They participated willingly in a largely underground cash economy with students, despite regulations that attempted to keep them off the campus. We see the implicit threat of their presence in an 1827 prohibition of “colored persons from entering the College Buildings for any purpose whatsoever” other than as part of their duties. They fought

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with students, sold them contraband goods, and passed notes to local townspeople on their behalf.⁴

Those enslaved around the University worked, with varying levels of success, to take advantage of the institution that they could not attend. Lucius Holsey, the future founder of what is now the Christian Methodist Episcopal (C.M.E.) Church, was owned in Athens by R.M. Johnston, who began to teach at the University when Holsey was 15. Holsey later recalled upon coming to Athens being struck by “an insatiable craving for some knowledge of books.” So he “determined to read, at all hazards, and take whatever risks might be connected” with this illegal activity. Holsey credited “the white children” in town and “an old colored man” with teaching him the alphabet, and credited his own dogged pursuit of literacy with the rest.⁵

The University archives contain few words of enslaved people themselves. Instead, the most readily accessible sources record the thoughts and opinions of students, faculty, and Athens citizens on enslaved people and the institution of slavery, through official minutes, newspaper articles, and books written by prominent men in the University’s history. One exchange in a local newspaper follows a debate over the place and behavior of enslaved people in an Athens Baptist Church.⁶ Both Patrick Hues Mell and Thomas R. R. Cobb, a chancellor and an alumnus of the University respectively, published on the history and theory of slavery. Further, on campus, the topic of slavery was debated by both the Demosthenian and Phi Kappa literary societies, with the arguments recorded in their minutes.

Despite the dearth of their own records, it is abundantly clear that enslaved Athenians worked, lived, and died on and around campus. For many, final resting places were near the campus, on ground now owned and maintained by the University. One former slave, Willis Cofer, describing his life to a Works Progress Administration interviewer in the 1930s, recalled the Old Athens Cemetery, which by that time had fallen into neglect. “When I passes by de old graveyard on Jackson Street,” he told the white interviewer, “I ’members lots of folkses whats buried dar, bofe white folkses and slaves too, for den white folkses put dey slaves whar dey aimed to be buried deyselves. Dat sho’ used to be a fine graveyard.” Cofer’s account of black burials in the Old Athens Cemetery was a poignant reminder of the ways hierarchy was expressed in life and death, both under slavery and during segregation.⁷

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That enslaved men and women were buried in the Old Athens Cemetery on Jackson Street was common knowledge in the 1930s, known by white and black Athenians and by University officials. George Battey, of the Georgia Information Service, wrote to Duncan Burnet, the University Librarian in 1938, shortly after the completion of Baldwin Hall, about the state of the Old Athens Cemetery:

The white inmates at the northern end of the cemetery turned over in their graves when they heard picks and shovels digging foundations for a large brick University building in 1938. They rested more easily when it was revealed that the digging was being confined to the southern end where the colored folks of Athens used to be interred; numerous tibias, vertebrae and grinning skulls of colored brothers were unearthed and thrown 'over the dump,' while surviving relatives and friends of silent sleepers in this city of the dead shuddered to think of what an extension of building construction would mean.⁸

The end of slavery, of course, did not end racial hierarchy in Athens or the South.

ENDNOTES

1. This course, *Public History and Technology*, was intended to help students see and begin to tell others about the history and legacy of slavery at the University of Georgia. The course provided training in practical research, writing, and some new technological skills, as well as offering insight into a little discussed, yet important, aspect of campus history. It challenged the class to think critically about how to discuss and inform people about uncomfortable parts of history in a sensitive, but honest, way.
2. University of Georgia Archives, Board of Trustees Minutes, August 6, 1829. Volume 2, page 202 and elsewhere. UA 02-042, Box 6, Hargrett Rare Book & Manuscript Library.
3. University of Georgia Archives, Prudential Committee Minutes, December 17, 1842, pages 15-16. UA 0146, Box 2, Hargrett Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

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Clarke County, Georgia, Probate Records, estate of Alonzo S. Church, 3 May 1862.

4. University of Georgia Archives, Board of Trustees Minutes, August 24, 1829. Volume 2, page 186, Hargrett Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

5. Lucius H. Holsey, "Learning to read and conversion of Lucius Holsey" in *Sermons, Addresses, and Essays of Bishop L.H. Holsey*. Atlanta, GA: Franklin Printing and Publishing Company, 1899, pp. 16-18.

6. An Ounce of Preventive. "To the Southern Watchman." *Athens Southern Watchman*, November 26, 1857, pp. 2-3. <http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/athnewspapers/id:swm1857-0182> (accessed October 29, 2015).

"The Negro Controversy." *Athens Southern Watchman*, December 10, 1857, p. 2. <http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/athnewspapers/id:swm1857-0190> (accessed October 29, 2015).

Lumpkin, Wilson. "To the Southern Watchman." *Athens Southern Watchman*, December 3, 1857, pp. 2-3. <http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/athnewspapers/id:swm1857-0186> (accessed October 29, 2015).

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Rutherford, Williams. "To the Southern Watchman." *Athens Southern Watchman*. December 10, 1857, pp. 2-3. <http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/athnewspapers/id:swm1857-0190> (accessed November 18, 2015).

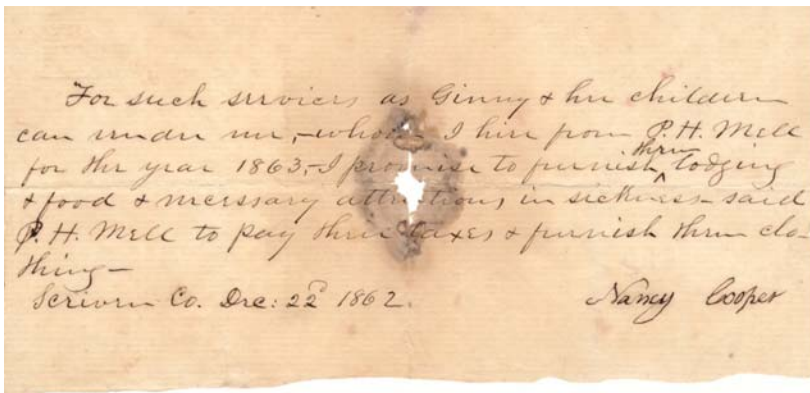
7. *Federal Writers' Project: Slave Narrative Project, Vol. 4, Georgia*, Part 1, Adams-Furr, pp. 201-211. Accessed October 2016 at <https://www.loc.gov/item/mesn041/> – Willis Cofer's narrative was written by Miss Grace McCune in 1938, edited by Mrs. Sarah Hall of Athens, Leila Harris and John N. Booth of Augusta, Georgia. Willis was 78 years old, living at 548 Findley Street in Athens.

8. George M. Battey to Mr. Duncan Burnet. Subscribers' Bulletin 24, Georgia Information Service, Dec. 12, 1938, typescript, page 6. Battey Collection, MS 411, Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of Georgia.

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Bills of Sale for Slaves in Clarke County, Georgia

From the collection of Gary L. Doster



For such services as Ginny & her children
can render me, whom I hire from P.H. Mell
for the year 1863, I promise to furnish ^{their} lodging
& food & necessary attentions in sickness - said
P.H. Mell to pay their taxes & furnish them clo-
thing -
Screven Co. Dec: 22 1862. Nancy Cooper

Figure 1. For such services as Ginny & her children can render me, whom I hire from P.H. Mell for the year 1863. I promise to furnish their lodging & food & necessary attentions in sickness _ said P.H. Mell to pay their taxes & furnish them clothing.

Screven Co. [Georgia] [signed] Nancy Cooper

Rev. Patrick Hues Mell was UGA professor of ancient languages, metaphysics, ethics, 1858-until his death in 1888; Vice Chancellor 1860-1872, and Chancellor 1878-1888.

Nancy Cooper was the mother of both the first and second wives of Patrick Hues Mell.

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Georgia }
Clark County } Received of John H. Newton
Four hundred and eighty one
dollars in full for the
purchase money for a negro man named
Squire about thirty five years old, sold
on first tuesday in May Inst. as the property of
Wm. H. Jackson under Executions in favor
of William Dearing and other Fi fas vs
said Jackson -
May 31st 1843. James Hendon Shff

Figure 2. Georgia / Clark County. Received of John H. Newton Four hundred and eighty one dollars [\$481.00] in full for the purchase money for a negro man named Squire about thirty five years old, sold on first tuesday in May Inst. [instant = this month], as the property of Wm. H. Jackson under Executions in favor of William Dearing and other Fi fas vs said Jackson.

May 31st 1843

[signed]

James Hendon Shff [sheriff]

John Hamlin Newton served on the Lucy Cobb Institute Board of Trustees for many years.

William H. Jackson was a member of UGA's first graduating class in 1804 and served on the UGA Board of Trustees 1822-1864.

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Georgia 3 Recd of John H. Newton the sum of
 Clarke County 3 One hundred Dollars for a negro woman
 named Esther, about forty years of age, the
 title to which said property I will warrant and defend
 against the claim of all and every other person what-
 soever - sound & healthy - Edward R. Harden
 Feb. 5th 1844.

Figure 3. Georgia / Clarke County. Recd. of John H. Newton the sum of One hundred Dollars for a negro woman named Esther, about forty years of age, the title to which said property I will warrant and defend against the claim of all and every other person whatsoever - sound & healthy.

Feb. 5th 1844 [signed] Edward R. Harden

John Hamlin Newton served on the Lucy Cobb Institute Board of Trustees for many years.

Edward Randolph Harden was an alumnus of the University of Georgia.

ATHENS HISTORIAN

Georgia } I have this day sold to
Clarke Co } John H. Newton, for the
sum of seven hundred and fifty dollars
(the receipt of which is hereby acknow-
ledged) two slaves, viz. Harry, a man
of about forty two years of age and
Creecy, his wife, of about the same
age, the right & title to which slaves
I will forever warrant and defend
to the said John H. Newton, against
all persons whatever. As witness
my hand and seal this December
twenty seventh, eighteen hundred and
forty one.

Signed, sealed &
delivered in presence
of J. W. Lucas

J. H. Newton

Figure 4. Georgia / Clarke Co. I have this day sold to John H. Newton, for the sum of seven hundred and fifty dollars [\$750.00] (the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged) two slaves, viz., Harry, a man of about forty two years of age, and Creecy, his wife, of about the same age; the right and title to which slaves I will forever warrant and defend to the said John H. Newton, against all persons whatever. As witness my hand and seal this December twenty seventh, Eighteen hundred and forty one [1841].

Signed, sealed
& delivered in presence of F. W. Lucas

[signed]

Jas. P. Waddel

John Hamlin Newton served on the Lucy Cobb Institute Board of Trustees for many years.

James P. Waddel was a professor of ancient languages 1836-1856 at the University of Georgia and a son of former University president and Presbyterian minister Moses Waddel.

ATHENS HISTORIAN

Georgia
Clarke County } Know all men by these presents,
that I, James P. Waddel, of the said State and County,
for and in consideration of the sum of Three Hundred
Dollars, to me paid, the receipt of which is hereby ac-
knowledged, have sold and conveyed to John H.
Newton, of the same place, a certain negro girl named
Annie, about seven years old; and do warrant &
will forever defend the said girl to the said Newton
against the claim or claims of all persons who
soever.

Given under my hand and seal, this Thirteenth
day of January, Eighteen hundred and forty one.

James P. Waddel J.P.W.

Figure 5. Georgia / Clarke County. Know all men by these presents that I, James P. Waddel, of the said State and County, for and in consideration of the Sum of Three Hundred Dollars [\$300.00], to me paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, have Sold and Conveyed to John H. Newton, of the Same place, a certain negro girl named Annie, about Seven years old, and do warrant & will forever defend the Said girl to the Said Newton against the claim or claims of all persons whatsoever.

Given under my hand and seal, this Thirteenth day of January, Eighteen hundred and forty one [1841].

[signed]

Jas. P. Waddel

John Hamlin Newton served on the Lucy Cobb Institute Board of Trustees for many years.

James P. Waddel was a professor of ancient languages 1836-1856 at the University of Georgia and a son of former University president and Presbyterian minister Moses Waddel.

WPA Narrative of David Wilborn, Ex-slave, Born in Athens, Georgia, 1856

In the Depression years between 1936 and 1938, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Federal Writers' Project sent out-of-work writers in 17 states to interview former slaves and write down their life stories. The total collection of these narratives contains more than 10,000 typed pages representing more than 2,000 interviews.

The former slave David Wilborn was interviewed in Springfield, Ohio, where he was living at age 81. However, he was born in Athens, Georgia, in 1856, a slave on Dr. Edward Ware's "plantation" – an extensive tract of land that extended northward from Jackson Street to the banks of the Oconee River and included a large wooded tract to the west. The house that Dr. Ware built on this land around 1850 was located at the north end of Jackson Street overlooking downtown Athens. It is now the Ware-Lyndon House Museum.

A copy of Wilborn's narrative was discovered in the Ohio Archives Collection "The African-American Experience in Ohio" by Hope Hilton, Athens artist, writer, curator, and educator. Hope tells us that she "came across it by accident, as I've been reading the WPA slave narratives and collecting names of medicinal plants to then watercolor ... for a book I'm working on." Hope photocopied the WPA typescript of the Wilborn narrative and submitted it to the 2016 Lyndon House Juried Art Fair, where it was displayed. On the following pages we reproduce that typescript using a close facsimile of the original typewriter font used by the interviewer. We thank Hope for guiding us to these materials and getting permission from the Ohio History Connection for the Athens Historian to use the photo of Mr. Wilborn.



David Wilborn at age 81. (Photo courtesy of the Ohio History Connection, from the Afro-American Small Picture Collection, SC 1495. This photograph was taken by the staff of the Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration.)

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DAVID WILBORN - 2nd Fair St.

Ex-slave

Description

David Wilborn, aged 81, is olive brown in color, 6 feet in height and weighs 200 lbs. Alert for his years, and well dressed at all times, his conversation and grasp of matters of general and local importance mark him as above the average in intelligence for a Negro of his slavery background.

Description from the original WPA typescript: "David Wilborn, aged 81, is olive brown in color, 6 feet in height and weighs 200 lbs. Alert for his years, and well dressed at all times, his conversation and grasp of matters of general and local importance mark him as above average in intelligence for a Negro of his slavery background."

DAVID WILBORN

Ex-slave, age 81

"I was bawn in Athens, Georgia, Jan. 13, 1856. My father, Robert Wilborn, was a Cherokee Indian. My mother was the daughter of a Negro woman and a German doctor. There were fifteen child'un of us, twelve boys and three girls. Dr. Edward Ware owned mother and we child'un, and father worked for him, making coffins for use when any of the slaves on his plantation died, and for Dr. Ware to sell, too."

"Dr. Ware owned a large numbuh of slaves - I jes' dont know how many, but I heard mother say they was something like a hundred. He was the doctor that examined the slaves for the auction, and he was a slave trader.

"Father died in 1863. I remembuh he was buried in one of the coffins he made himself. It was put on a wagon pulled by a mule. A man led the mule and our family walked down the road behind the wagon to the cemetery."

"Of co'se we lived in a cabin. That was the way all slaves lived. We ate cawn bread and fat meat, and hardly any vegetables, and syrup. We went barefoot, and wore loose shirts with a hole cut for the haid to go through, and a hole for each arm.

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Many a day I picked cotton from sunrise to dark when I was jes' a little fellow."

"I remembus our ole Missus having a big hole or underground tunnel dug so they could hide their hosses. The tunnel was lined with boards, and the hosses put down in it, and then they covered up the hole. But the union soldiers was used to that way of hiding cattle and hosses, so of co'se they found em."

"Old Missus cried and said, 'You can help yourself to the strawberries, but please dont take my nice carriage hosses.' It made the soldiers laugh. They took the hosses, and helped themselves to the strawberries and anything else they wanted, anyway."

"Aftuh freedom we stayed on the Ware plantation till 1869. One of my older brothers went to Augusta and was working in a hotel, and he sent for the rest of us to come. Some of my brothers and sisters had been sold off into slavery, and mother could'nt [sic] locate em again. She took what was left of we child'un and refugeed to Atlanta, and got herself a job with a family named Dennick. Mother was a very good cook, and she stayed with this family till she died, in 1874.

"I went to school for a while, but the facilities was poor, and I did'nt [sic] have money for books; so I stopped and went to work in the field picking cotton. Teachers came into the South aftuh the wah like missionaries. Most of 'em was from Massachusetts, Vermont and New York."

"I left Augusta and went to Look Out Mountain where I worked in a hotel. Then I come to Yellow Springs, Ohio, and worked with my brother John in a hotel there. That was about 65 years ago."

"I come to Springfield 63 years ago and begun work in the Lagonda Hotel. I learned to read and write by the traveling men who came to the hotel. But I read all I had time to read and used a dictionary all the time."

"I represented the Negroes of Springfield as their correspondent in the following papers: The Cleveland Gazette; The Voice of the People; The Lexington Herald; The Detroit Plaindealer; The

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Christian Recorder of Philadelphia, which Bishop Lee was editor of; and the Indianapolis Freeman."

"In April, 1898, I was a member of the Ohio National Guard. I was in the Spanish-American War in 1898, and was mustered out with Co. A. in 1899.

"After coming out of the army I took a course at Clark's School of Embalming in Cincinnati, Ohio. I opened an undertaking establishment here in Springfield, under the name of Roller and Wilborn, and afterward we establish an office in Dayton, Ohio. We was the first Negro undertakers in Dayton."

"I first married to Miss Laura Finch of Atlanta, Georgia. There was three child'un bawn to us, two girls and a boy. Five years after the death of my first wife I married Miss Elizabeth Buckley of Charleston, South Carolina. One son, David, was born to us."

"I've remained a member of Nawth Street Church since coming to Springfield.["]

END

More Biographical Information on David Wilborn

To augment Wilborn's WPA narrative, we print the following biographical information, based on research by Eve B. Mayes.

David Wilborn was born January 13, 1856 in Athens, Clarke County, Georgia, the son of a mulatto slave Rebecca, who was born about 1810 in Georgia, and Robert Wilborn, who was evidently a free man working for Dr. Edward R. Ware of Athens. Wilborn states in his narrative that his father was a Cherokee Indian who died in 1863.

We find David and his mother Rebecca in the city of Augusta in 1870. The 1870 Richmond County, Georgia, census (Ward 3, City of Augusta) lists several Wilborns, including David, "age 12, born in Georgia, mulatto, at home, cannot read or write," and his mother, Rebecca, "age 60, mulatto, domestic servant, cannot read or write." Rebecca died in 1874.

David left Georgia sometime after his mother died. The 1880 Clark County, Ohio, census describes David Wilborn, age 23, as "mulatto, single, laborer" living at 11 East North Street, Springfield, Ohio, with his brother John Wilborn, age 25, "mulatto, waiter in hotel" and his family.

David married Laura Finch on February 8, 1889, in Atlanta, Georgia. The 1890 Springfield city directory listed Wilborn's occupation now as "porter";

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he and Laura were living at 17 North Jackson Street. We know from the WPA narrative that this was the period when he learned to read and write. David and Laura had three children: Ethel J. Wilborn, born about 1893, Helen L. Wilborn, born January 5, 1894, and possibly a David Wilborn born November 28, 1889 (city directories of Springfield, Ohio, and federal censuses). Wilborn states in the WPA narrative that they had a son, but this son cannot be traced from 1900; he may have died. Laura died about 1895.

On April 25, 1898, Wilborn enlisted as a private in the Ohio Volunteer Infantry during the Spanish-American War, and became the company quartermaster for Company A of the 9th Battalion, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He was discharged on January 28, 1899 at Marion, South Carolina, with the rank of sergeant (application for Wilborn's military marker).

David married his second wife, Mary Elizabeth Bulkley (born February 1879 in South Carolina) September 20, 1900 in Charleston, South Carolina. (The WPA interviewer transcribed her name as Buckley.) Their son, David B. Wilborn, was born April 11, 1904, in Springfield, Ohio.

As we know from the WPA narrative, Wilborn took an embalming course and established an undertaking business in Springfield with a business partner; they were also the first "Negro undertakers" in Dayton, Ohio. Until about 1935, he also traveled extensively by railroad throughout Kentucky, Georgia, Tennessee, North and South Carolina as a correspondent, gathering news about the progress and problems of African-Americans for various newspapers, including the *Cleveland Gazette*, the *Detroit Plaindealer* and the *Indianapolis Freeman*.

A biographical sketch, published on page 1 of the March 24, 1923 *Cleveland [Ohio] Gazette*, shows that throughout his adult life, David Wilborn was an activist for the betterment of African-Americans:



Mr. David Wilborn.

SPRINGFIELD. -- Mr. David Wilborn has been a resident of Springfield 48 years. He has been on the right side of every movement for the advancement of our people ever since he has been here.

Thirty-eight years ago, our people here fought for mixed schools. He was prominent in that fight, as he has been in recent ones. He was also one of five delegates sent from here to Columbus [Ohio], years ago, to help wipe the remnants of the "Black Laws" off the statute books of Ohio.

Mr. Wilborn was earnest and enthusiastic during the recent school fight, and gave liberally of his time, money and effort that the victory might be won.

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In 1928, at age 72, Wilborn briefly entered the veterans' home in Dayton, Ohio, with sciatica and neuritis in his right leg, and was discharged on March 22 (U.S. National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866-1938, records). The WPA interviewed him at his home at 220 Fair Street in Springfield, Ohio, when he was 81. He died January 14, 1940 in Springfield, having just turned 84. His widow Mary applied for a military marker for his grave on February 7, 1940. The request was approved and the marker was placed on his grave in Ferncliff Cemetery, Springfield, Ohio (application for Wilborn's military marker). His wife Mary was buried there in 1963 (Find-a-Grave memorials 74562638 and 74295471).

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The typescript of David Wilborn's WPA narrative is available online in the Ohio History Connection – <http://dbs.ohiohistory.org/africanam/html/page8b38.html?ID=13936>.

The photograph of David Wilborn taken by the WPA staff may be found in the Afro-American Small Picture Collection of the Ohio History Connection – <http://dbs.ohiohistory.org/africanam/html/page8b38.html>.

Newspaper articles from the *Cleveland Gazette* from the digital archives on www.genealogybank.com, accessed October 2016.

Federal Census records, city directories, birth and death records, military service records found on Ancestry.com, accessed October 2016. A public family tree for this family has been compiled on Ancestry – <http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/104484783/>.

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John Whitmire, Galvanized Yankee

by Glenda M. Patton

Dr. Al Hester invited Glenda Patton to talk about her great-great grandfather, John M. Whitmire, at the Athens Historical Society's January 17, 2016, program about his book, Putting on Blue: Confederates from the Athens, Georgia Area Who Became Galvanized Yankees. Whitmire, who was born in Jackson County, served on both sides of the Civil War, first as a Confederate soldier and later, as a "Galvanized Yankee" – a soldier who was given freedom from his Yankee prison if he would swear allegiance to the Union and enlist in special regiments to serve in the West. Although Whitmire figures in Hester's book, Ms. Patton's talk gave additional, personal details that fascinated the audience. Following is the text of her remarks. While traditional academic citations are not included, the sources from which Ms. Patton drew are listed in her bibliography.

Although John Whitmire's life seems quite ordinary at first glance, his story has intrigued his descendants in Northwest Georgia for many years. John was born in Jackson County, Georgia, in 1840 to a family of modest means. The Whitmires were yeoman farmers who didn't own slaves. Like many families in the South, they worked the ground for their living. They lived in Georgia through 1850, but had moved to Cherokee County, Alabama, by the time the Civil War broke out. It was there that John joined the 19th Alabama Infantry, Company H (the Cherokees), CSA.

John's life seems extraordinary to us because of the world-changing events into which he was swept – a country torn apart by civil war. John Whitmire was a part of what I think of as a tragic generation, men born between the years of around 1830 to the early 1840s. They fought the bloody battles that would settle once and for all the issue of slavery and would finally answer the question, "What kind of country will we be?" It is the war, his time in federal prison, and his year on the Plains that make his story worthy of our attention today. And in our family, it is his toughness and his ability to survive almost insurmountable odds that endears him to us the most.

Dr. Hester's book begins with young John Whitmire sitting in the barracks at the Union prison at Rock Island, Illinois, thinking about that monumental decision: remain loyal to the Confederate Cause and perhaps die in prison – or sign the Oath of Allegiance to the United States, go West, and live. The decision may not have been as hard as we imagine. John was facing another brutally cold winter in prison. The Confederate Cause was lost by then and he would have known that. Many of his comrades had died in battle or had

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succumbed to disease. His younger brother, Joseph, had died in the fall of 1864 on Hood's march into Tennessee, around the time of John's decision to join the Union army, and John would likely have learned of this loss in letters from home.

On that day of decision, John may have thought of all he'd been through during his two years in the Confederate army. The 19th Alabama had fought at the Battles of Shiloh and Stones River and was a part of Longstreet's Charge, which resulted in a Confederate victory at Chickamauga. After Chickamauga, both armies dug in at Chattanooga for a siege – Confederates on the high ground, Yankees in the valley. John and his fellow Confederates shivered in their trenches in their thin clothing and they were hungry all the time. A growing number of Confederates deserted during those cold nights.

The siege lasted about two months. John's regiment occupied the rifle pits at the foot of Missionary Ridge and felt the first blows from the massive Federal breakout attack on the Ridge on November 25, 1863. It was there that John's Confederate service ended, for he was taken prisoner.

We have speculated about how he may have been captured. Was he clawing his way up the Ridge to escape the overwhelming forces pursuing him, as many Confederates did that day? Was he lying down in his rifle pit, arms folded on his chest in a position of surrender, waiting for the Yankees to take him, as some of his fellow soldiers were? Or did he put up a fight? Although the Confederate army was routed that day, there was a futile last stand made halfway up the Ridge by soldiers from several scattered regiments, including men from the 19th Alabama Infantry.

As a prisoner, John traveled on crowded trains from Chattanooga toward Louisville, Kentucky. Moving northward, the weather grew bitterly cold. The men huddled together on the trains to try to keep warm. And at Louisville, the trains picked up men infected with smallpox.

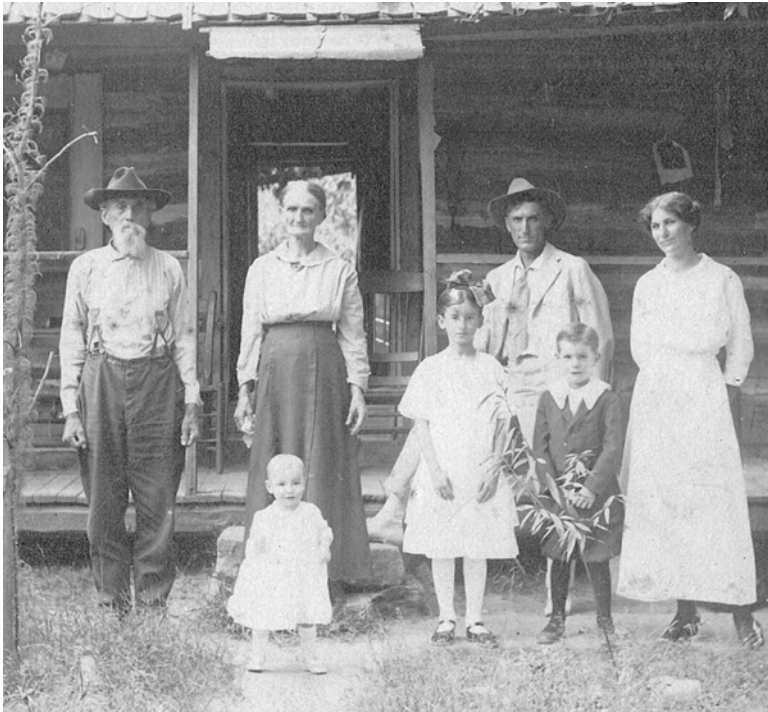
Rock Island Prison was newly built and unprepared for such a large influx of prisoners – almost 6,000, many of whom were sick with smallpox and dysentery. It's interesting that the town of Davenport, Iowa, just across the Mississippi River from Rock Island, was a hotbed of Rebel sympathizers. They lined the tracks as the first prisoner trains pulled in. Extra manpower had to be called in to keep them under control. The appearance of the Rebel prisoners may have shocked the Iowans. Federal General Alpheus Williams, who had seen the Rebel prisoners when the trains passed through Tullahoma, Tennessee, described the Rebel prisoners as "a hard looking lot of men ... A more dirty, destitute and diabolical lot of humanities cannot be conceived."

Once in prison, the men suffered for want of food. It was cold outside, with temperatures as low as 30 degrees below zero. Inside the barracks, the men shivered unless they huddled close to a stove. Disease was rampant and many died. Perhaps worst of all for these once-spirited Southern men – they had lost their freedom. After a year in this environment, John made his decision to take

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the Oath of Allegiance to the United States and go West to serve in the Nebraska Indian Territories.

The newly made Union men were referred to as “Galvanized Yankees.” The bureaucracy moved slowly, and the Galvanized Yankees spent months in limbo in the “calf pen.” For their own protection, they were kept separated from the diehard Confederates who had chosen to stay in prison. Finally, in the spring of 1865, as the Civil War ended, the Galvanized Yankees headed out on the long journey to Indian Territory. They probably traveled by train until the railroad ended, then part way by boat, and finally on foot to their remote outposts.



John and Mary Whitmire, son Milton, and daughter Maggie and her children standing in front of the Whitmire's "dog trot" cabin in DeKalb County, Alabama, about 1916. The old cabin was still standing in the 1940s. The large stone from the front step remains on the property today. The Whitmire farm was on the current site of the Comer Boy Scout Camp at Mentone, Alabama. (Collection of G. Patton)

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This was a savage environment. Indian tribes, fighting for their own survival, were attacking wagon trains and cutting telegraph lines. The trail, as Dee Brown writes in his book *The Galvanized Yankees*, was “one continuous string of dead, both white men and Indians, dead stock, and burned trains and ranches. Flour, coffee, tea, tins of kerosene, and bolts of cloth were scattered over the prairie. Mutilated bodies, rotting where they had fallen, or charred in the ruins of burned cabins, lay unburied.” The soldiers were hyper-vigilant at these lonely outposts. Stories of Indian raids, which included scalplings, kept them on edge. According to Brown, John’s Company D, 3rd U.S. Volunteers, saw considerable fighting. His camp was a frequent target of Indian raids.

After a year as a Galvanized Yankee, John returned South, but he never returned to his previous home in Cherokee County, Alabama. Back there were bitter, angry neighbors who may not have welcomed a Confederate soldier who had fought on the other side.

Notations in the Whitmire family Bible state that John’s parents, John Powell Whitmire and Permilia Whorton Whitmire, died after the war. The elder Whitmires are not found on the Alabama census of 1866 so they may have died while John was serving as a Galvanized Yankee in 1865. In 1867 John married Mary Isabell Hamilton from Lauderdale County in northwest Alabama; and between 1869 and 1888 they had seven children. The family lived several years near Mary’s family before moving to Giles County, Tennessee. By the early 1890s, the Whitmires were back in northeast Alabama in DeKalb County. They then lived for a few years in Lauderdale County, Alabama, later returning to Giles County, Tennessee. By 1900, John was once more in DeKalb County, Alabama, where he lived until his death in 1918.

Our research uncovered 30 letters written by John and Mary Whitmire from around 1900 to 1916. In them, we find evidence of an ordinary rural Southern family – raising hogs, making sausage, pickling peaches, and planting potatoes – making their living from the ground as generations of Whitmires had done.

John’s pension record tells the story of his long fight that began in 1880 to gain a Federal invalid pension due to broken ribs he sustained while loading a wagon on a floating bridge on the Blue River in Kansas. He enlisted the help of family, neighbors, friends, and a local doctor who also served as his lawyer. Finally, he was awarded a \$6 monthly pension, only to lose it when a Washington bureaucrat noticed that John had once been a Confederate soldier and was thus not entitled to a pension due to disloyalty to the United States government. John waged another years-long paper battle with Washington, and his pension was finally restored. A few years later in a letter to his son Joseph, he mentions that the pension was then \$9 a month. The story of the pension battle exemplifies John Whitmire’s fighting spirit – the spirit that makes him such a compelling figure to his descendants.

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While I was writing this essay, it occurred to me that the Civil War still fascinates us today because it is so very recent. My grandmother, Minnie Eleanor Clark Wright, John's granddaughter, was born in 1893. She knew her grandfather, John, for 24 years. I knew my grandmother for 24 years. And I recall seeing John's son, Milton, the son of a Civil War soldier, at family reunions in the 1950s. So our connections are close to the tragic generation that fought the Civil War, and their stories are very much alive with us today. As Gerda Lerner, in her book *Why History Matters*, writes, "The dead continue to live by way of the resurrection we give them in telling their stories."

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Send inquiries and comments to johnwhitmirefamily@gmail.com.

Mystery Solved: A Short Note on Tom Long

by Steven Brown, University Archivist Emeritus
Hargrett Rare Book & Manuscript Libraries

The Winter 2016 Athens Historical Society newsletter The Athens Stroller discussed two pictures of a statue that depicted an African-American in shirtsleeves pulverizing a pharmaceutical mixture with a large mortar and pestle. The first picture, in a book on Athens history, was of the figure dubbed “Tom Long” that had stood before Long’s Drug Store in downtown Athens from the mid- to late-19th century when it disappeared, then turned up in Elberton. The second picture, on a New York auction house website, was of a statue for sale that had several differences from the first, but was purported to be the same Tom Long. The Stroller asked its readers, “[Do you think] the New York statue is the same one that was in Athens?” Those who responded all opined that the two were different statues – except for Steven Brown, who maintained that they were the same, the later one just “radically altered in restoration”. In the following article, Brown presents his subsequent research on the subject – research that, in our opinion, answers the newsletter’s question and solves the mystery of the two pictures.

Readers of the Athens Historical Society’s newsletter, *The Athens Stroller*, may recall past mention of “Tom Long,” a wooden statue of an African-American with a mortar and pestle that stood outside of the Broad Street pharmacy of Crawford W. Long (1815-1878) and his brother, Henry R. J. Long (1823-1888), in 19th century Athens.¹ In 2016 a similar figure, described as being Dr. Long’s statue, was offered for sale at the Winter Antiques Show in New York City by the house of David A. Schorsch and Eileen M. Smiles American Antiques of Waterbury, Connecticut. This triggered debate (in Athens, if not New York) as to whether it was the same statue.

Currently the 2016 color photograph of the statue can be viewed at the website announcing the Winter Antiques Show.² This modern photograph revealed differences with a much earlier photograph appearing in James Reap’s *Athens: A Pictorial History*.³ Some believed the statue to be another figure altogether, while others thought it was Dr. Long’s, but with extensive repair and modification to the mortar and pestle. All were curious about the source and date of the earlier photograph. Although the Reap photograph was credited to the Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library, its precise location was not cited, and James Reap did not recall the collection that contained it.

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I am happy to say that I have found a print of the original photograph at Hargrett in a scrapbook on Dr. Long's career, assembled by his daughter, Frances Long Taylor (d. 1930).⁴ (Figure 1)

With the photo is an article from a 1908 issue of *The Druggist's Circular*, which reproduced the photograph. This article reported that Tom Long was commissioned by Dr. Crawford W. Long in the early 1850s from artist and interior decorator Charles James Oliver (1831-1911) of Athens. After standing some years in front of the Long brothers pharmacy, it adorned two other Athens firms: Long and Billups and E.C. Long & Co. In the early 20th century the statue was found in Elberton, Georgia, by Crawford W. Long's son, Dr. Arthur B. Long (1858-1908). At that time it was restored by a Mr. Giles under the guidance of Charles Oliver and placed on display in front of the Atlanta pharmacy of Dr. Joseph Jacobs (1859-1929), at the corner of Peachtree and Marietta streets.⁵

The 1908 article also noted that Dr. Jacobs had been one of Long's apprentices tasked with moving Tom in from the sidewalk at night and out in the morning. Such is ever the life of a vandalism-avoiding advertising statue in a college town, I suppose.

A biography of Dr. Jacobs at the *Immigrant Entrepreneurship* website describes how his father, Gabriel Jacobs, a dry goods dealer, brought his young family from Chicago, Illinois, to Jefferson, Georgia, around 1860. Gabriel Jacobs was later instrumental in the founding and early operation of the Athens Synagogue. In Jefferson young Joseph Jacobs began his apprenticeship with Crawford W. Long. Following his training and an early career in Athens, Dr. Joseph Jacobs purchased the Taylor pharmacy in Atlanta and made it one of that city's outstanding successes with his innovative business practices. I believe that I



Figure 1. Photograph from Frances Long Taylor's scrapbook that was used to illustrate the 1908 *The Druggist's Circular* article. (Reproduced courtesy Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library, collection MS 191.)

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can see Tom Long's tiny raised arms at his mortar in an early postcard of the store held by the Hargrett Library. Dr. Jacob's store was more famous, however, for housing the soda fountain at which the first Coca-Cola was sold on May 8, 1886.⁶

Tom Long's image appeared a second time in a 1919 booklet on Crawford Long written by Dr. Jacobs. In this small image the mortar has already been shortened and the pestle placed on a stand to bring the pestle up to the hands, as the figure appears today. Dr. Jacobs identified that statue as the one from Long and Billups Drug Store in Athens and stated that it was now in his office.⁷

Later, a 1927 newspaper article reported that Tom Long was part of a window display on pharmacy history in Jacob's store. This article described the statue as standing on Broad Street in Athens from 1854 to 1884.⁸

David Schorsch has kindly sent the Athens Historical Society his research on the statue, which brings Tom Long's biography to the present. His history has the statue being taken to Elberton by Arthur B. Long, rather than being discovered there by him. This is consistent with Long having been in the drug business in Elberton and dying in 1908 when the statue was "discovered."⁹ Schorsch's research is particularly valuable in giving us Tom Long's post-1927 biography. Until the 1970s he descended through the Jacobs family. By 1976 he was at the Kennedy Galleries, Inc. in New York City, and that year he appeared in a show at the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution, "Signs of Life: Symbols in the American City." Following that, he was in the Marvell Collection in White Plains, New



Figure 2. The Tom Long statue illustration from Dr. Jacobs' 1919 booklet on Crawford W. Long.

York. In 1987 he was offered in an auction at Sotheby's and entered the collection of the late Stanley M. Lewis of New York, where he remained until the 2016 sale.¹⁰ According to an article in the *New York Times*, Tom Long was in the collection of Jill and M. Austin Fine when he was placed on auction at Sotheby's in 1987.¹¹



Figure 3. Advertising with a blurred figure from the Columbus [GA] Enquirer, May 6, 1846, page 3, showing the “Sign of the Negro and Mortar.”

It should be noted that the figure was described as being of hickory in 1908 and of poplar in 2016. David Schorsch says that the figure is of poplar, with a modern yellow pine base, and suspects that the author of the 1908 article called it hickory because of its nostalgic association with early American tools. Schorsch notes modifications to the mortar and pestle, plus wear and patina to the finish consistent with outdoor display. He records that minor restoration of paint was done in 2015 and a new base constructed for the figure at that time.

Beyond the obvious differences in the mortar and pestle, I think the similarities in modeling of the clothing, head, and positioning of arms argue that it is the 1908 statue repaired. Note the necktie, shirt folds and that the left arm is covered to the wrist while the sleeve on the right is rolled to the elbow. The argument has been put forward that the similarities and differences suggest that this is another statue by Oliver, similar, but not quite the same. However, given that Oliver and Jacobs both identified the statue in 1908, that the 2016 modifications already appear in the 1919 photograph, and that the statue was in the possession of the Jacobs family until the late 20th century, it seems likely that this is the figure from Long and Billups Drug Store in Athens.

Newspaper research initiated by Athens Historical Society member and researcher Gary Doster revealed that a pharmacy operated on College Avenue in Athens by A. Alexander, Sr., advertised in the newspapers from 1846 to 1849 as being at the “sign of the negro and mortar.” Later, from 1858 to 1861, the Long brothers advertised their Broad Street shop as being at the same sign.¹² Possibly the Longs bought the statue from Alexander. Oliver would have been only a teenager in 1854, but Gary notes that an apprentice might

have been quite accomplished in those days. He also notes that Alexander might literally have had a sign with man, mortar and pestle painted on it and not a statue.

A cursory search of antebellum newspapers online has brought forth other examples of pharmacies in Atlanta and Columbus, Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee mentioning “the sign of the negro and mortar” – an illustrated, if badly-printed, example is shown in Figure 3. With it is a much finer illustration from a Civil War-era advertising envelope, found online by Gary Doster. (Figure 4)

Why the recurrent theme of the “negro and mortar”? Again we turn to Gary Doster, who recommends an online chapter from a 1997 master’s thesis done by Sarah Mitchell Cotton at Virginia Tech, *Bodies of Knowledge: The Influence of Slaves on the Antebellum Medical Community*. Springing from the Charleston “negro and golden mortar,” Cotton discusses the special role of African-American medicine in the 19th century South.¹³

Traveling from bondage in antebellum Athens to Smithsonian exhibits, Sotheby’s auctions, and major collections, Tom Long’s story is certainly one of “local Athens man makes good in the big city.” The statue also serves as a reminder of the special knowledge, crafts, and skills for which African-Americans were valued during their exploitation in the antebellum world, as well as the medical heritage of Athens.



Figure 4. Image of African-American with pharmaceutical mortar, appearing on a Civil War-era envelope. (Image courtesy of Scott Wieduwilt at Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions.)

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PICTURE CREDITS

Figure 1. Photograph from Frances Long Taylor scrapbook. Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library, collection MS 191. This is seemingly the earliest known photograph of the Tom Long figure and appears to have been used to illustrate the article in *The Druggist's Circular* for November 1908. It also appeared in James Reap's *Athens: A Pictorial History*.

Figure 2. The Tom Long statue illustrating Dr. Joseph Jacobs' booklet, *Some Personal Recollections and Private Correspondence of Dr. Crawford Williamson Long*. Atlanta, GA: 1919.

Figure 3. *Columbus Enquirer*, May 6, 1846, page 3. Retrieved October 2016 from <http://enquirer.galileo.usg.edu/enquirer/view?docId=news/cwe1846/cwe1846-0071.xml>. Image courtesy of the Digital Library of Georgia.

Figure 4. Image from Civil War-era advertising envelope, from Gary Doster. Image courtesy of Scott Wieduwilt at Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions, 47 Kearny Street, Suite 500; San Francisco, CA 94108.

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