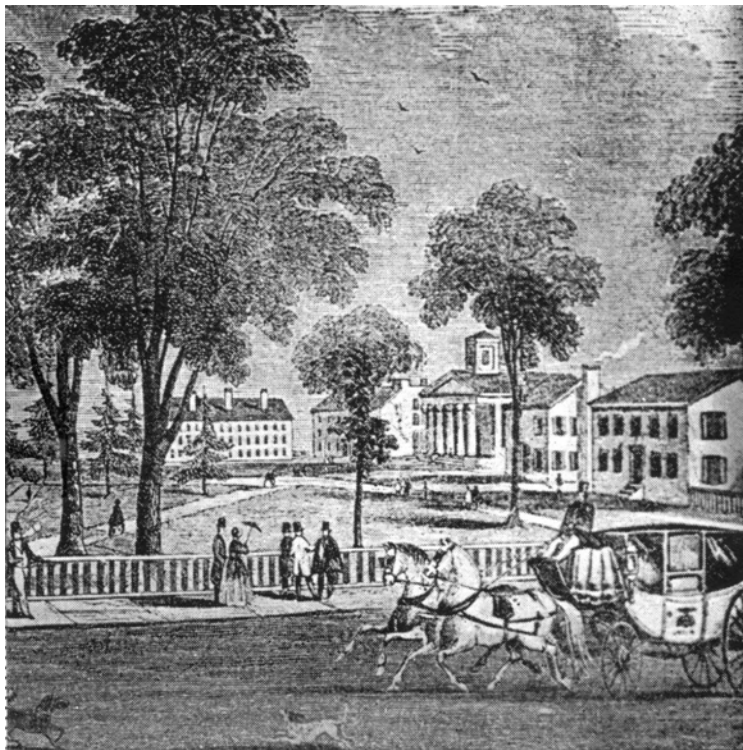


# Athens Historian

Volume 6

Fall 2001



FRANKLIN COLLEGE, IN ATHENS, GEORGIA

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# Athens Historian

*Volume 6*

*Fall 2001*

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# ATHENS HISTORIAN

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# ATHENS HISTORIAN

## How Athens Came to Be

by Mary Bondurant Warren

In 1785, when the Georgia Legislature decided that the new state needed an institution of higher learning, Cherokee and Creek Indians resisted white settlement in the area that is now Athens and Clarke County. This is the story, told in part by the very people who founded Athens, of how the city grew up around the fledgling University of Georgia, and how young scholars who had previously been sent to the College of William and Mary in Virginia, one of the northern institutions, or even overseas for their training, came to have a college in their own home state.

Two large counties, Franklin and Greene, were created from the land ceded by the Indians. Twenty thousand acres, laid out in five-thousand-acre tracts, were set aside in each new county in trust for the new university, the sale of which would endow this endeavor. The legislature then adjourned, after naming a prominent member, Abraham Baldwin, as president.

Competition for the site of the new college was intense - every county in the state wanted it. This debate delayed its siting nearly fifteen years which meant that Baldwin was president of a non-existent university. After so many years of waiting, he gave up, ran for the U.S. Senate, and was elected in 1798. He had been a congressman nearly ten years before being elected to the Senate.<sup>1</sup>

A proclamation announced that the legislature had decided against locating the school in Greene County and that Jackson County had been chosen.<sup>2</sup> Members of the *Senatus Academicus*, the committee created by the legislature to select the site, were called to meet at Louisville (then the capital of Georgia) in June between terms of the Superior Courts. Professor Josiah Meigs, Esq., of Yale "College" of Connecticut, was named as "Presiding Professor of the University of the State of Georgia." Meigs accepted and "had arrived with his family among us."

The 20 June 1801 *Augusta Chronicle* continued the story. The *Senatus Academicus* gathered at Louisville on June 15th, and, except for choosing the site of the college, "did proceed to carry the charter

<sup>1</sup>*Dictionary of Georgia Biography.*

<sup>2</sup>*Augusta Herald*, 15 April 1801.

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more fully into effect; and the citizens of Georgia are now informed, that the institution is in progress, and in a fair way to answer speedily the great and desirable purposes for which it was created....”

Among other things, the honorable Mr. Baldwin, who had been at first appointed president of the University, having refused, Professor Meigs was appointed in his stead, with a salary of \$1500 per annum.

Instead of the county of Greene, where the former *Senatus Academicus* had appointed the site of the University to be, that appointment was reconsidered, and the site directed to be selected in the county of Jackson, and a building to be erected as soon as possible, to accommodate at least 100 scholars.

For both these purposes a committee was appointed, consisting of the Hon. Mr. Baldwin, the Hon. Mr. Milledge, Major General Twiggs, Col. Lawson, and his Honor Judge Walton, who are to meet at Billups’ Tavern, the lower end of Jackson county, on the 29<sup>th</sup> instant [June], to select the site of the university; and immediately thereafter to contract for the building.

This was certainly a blue-ribbon committee, for its members were the future Georgia governor John Milledge, Abraham Baldwin (who signed the U.S. Constitution), Judge George Walton (who signed the Declaration of Independence), Maj. Gen. John Twiggs (a leader during the Revolutionary War), and Hugh Lawson (later Surveyor General).

Wending their way toward Jefferson, the men stopped at Billups’ Tavern, probably the only hotel for miles around. It was located on the Lexington Road just southeast of where the intersection with Whit Davis Road is now. An adjoining racetrack drew contestants for well-publicized horse races.

Independence Day was celebrated throughout the land with speeches and celebrations. In Jackson County the festivities were held on “the upper tract of the lands belonging to that Trust” [University endowment]. The committee had spent part of the day inspecting possible sites, when “they were conducted to a grove, along side of which was an excellent spring, about the centre of the 6000 acre tract. Here were collected the neighboring inhabitants, the tenantry of the soil; having a suitable collation [party] for the entertainment of the committee, and to celebrate the day.” The meal was followed by numerous toasts, including one to Josiah Meigs, president of the University of Georgia: “May lights arise in the west to meet the

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progress of Empire; and hither may she have her happiest and most lasting abode.” And to Judge George Walton, chairman of the committee: “May his hand be as successful in durably laying the corner stone of the University, as in laying the corner of our Republic, when he signed, for us, the Declaration of Independence.”

The *Augusta Chronicle* story continued, “We understand that the Committee have made choice of a site in Jackson county for the University - a description of it will be given in our next.” The *Chronicle* of 25 July 1801 gave notice that the site was obtained:

... The committee having completed their views, and estimated their respective advantages, proceeded by ballot to make the choice [of the site]; when the vote was unanimous in favour of a place belonging to Mr. Daniel Easley, at the Cedar Shoals, upon the north fork of the Oconee river; and the same was resolved to be selected and chosen for the seat of the University of Georgia, accordingly.

For this purpose the tract, containing 633 acres, was purchased of Mr. Easley by Mr. Milledge, one of the committee, and made a donation to the trustees; and it was called **Athens**.

It lies, of course, in the county of Jackson, and is distant from Augusta, a west course, and by the Post Road, 90 miles; and is adjacent to a tract of 5,000 acres belonging to the trust.

The river at Athens is about 150 feet broad; its waters rapid in their descent; and has no low grounds.

The site of the University is on the south side, and half a mile from the river. On one side the land is cleared; the other is wood land. On the cleared side are two ample orchards of apple and peach trees; forming artificial copses between the site and the river, preferable to the common undergrowth of nature.

What little vapour rises at any time from the river is always attracted by the opposite hills, towards the rising sun.

About 200 yards from the site, and at least 300 feet above the level of the river, in the midst of an extensive bed of rock, issues a copious spring of excellent water; and in its meanderings to the river, several others are discovered.

On the place is a new well-built framed dwelling house, entirely equal to the accommodation of the President and his family. There is also another new house, equal to a temporary school room.

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The square [campus] of the University, containing 36-1/2 acres, is laid off so as to comprehend the site, the houses, the orchards and the spring, together with a due proportion of the woodland.

A street is also laid off upon the northern line of the square, adjoining a village of lots in that direction. Besides the spring in the square, which is convenient to the village, there is one in the street, and another back of the lots.

Another street is also laid off on the western line of the square, and bounded upon more lots in that direction; and which will be supplied with water from springs forming another branch on the woodland side. A large avenue is also laid off in front of the site; and bearing a southerly direction.

The situation has an extended horizon on three sides. up the river, northerly, the site is bounded by ascending hills.

The sky, in general, is clear and azure; the air dry, elastic and vivifying; and a fact in our natural history not before known, is that the air in that elevated region of our state, during the warm months, is felt from the westward and not from the southward; and when it comes from the latter, it is considered a certain symptom of approaching rain.

The description continued in the 1 August 1801 issue of the *Augusta Chronicle* under the title "The University."

The soil in the neighborhood of Athens, and thence generally to the upper end of the county, between the north and middle forks of the [Oconee] river, is of the grey kind; very fit for farming, and the raising of stock. The small grain it produces is not excelled by that of any other country, the wheat often weighing from 64 to 74 pounds; and it is here that the people, in general, are every where seen using the finest wheaten bread. No county in the state is equally supplied with ample and bold streams for driving mills to convert the grain into flour, and to cut lumber for convenient dwellings and other buildings.

Near Athens, Mr. Easley has an excellent merchant-flour mill, a saw and common grist mill; with intention to add a cotton machine [cotton gin]. To drive these, the rapids opposite Athens are slightly dammed; so as the ordinary supply of the river neither increases or diminishes the size of the pond.

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A sheet, which tumbles over the width of the dam, with the operation of the mills, carry off in common more than is received above. When the river is below its ordinary supply, and the water not high enough to form the tumbling sheet, the discharge, by the working of the mills, has still the same effect; and it is at these times that much of the grain of the neighbouring counties is there ground.

There being no low grounds on either side, but in general abrupt declivities, there can be no water forced out of its banks upon flat or rich lands, or to enswamp trees of any sort; so that no inconvenience has been experienced or apprehended from the erection of these mills.

On the contrary, not only good health has been uniformly enjoyed at the place; but the mills have been found to be extensively useful.

In erecting the buildings of the University, and particularly the one the committee are directed now to contract for, they will be essentially convenient, and promotive of dispatch, but of this more hereafter.

Besides the common lesser fish of fresh water, the shad in their season ascend as high as Athens, in great perfection; yielding a comfortable supply of this bounty of nature, the delicious and healthful change in the food of man.

The ordinary supply of provisions is abundant in the county. Beef, pork and mutton are of the best kind; and the Augusta market is getting better supplied from thence with the former, than from any other quarter.

Col. William Few, one of Georgia's signers of the United States Constitution, held the original land grant of 1120 acres, most of the Athens area. Before moving from Georgia to New York in 1799, Few sold 693 acres, the easternmost section of his grant, to Daniel W. Easley. The land grant originally lay in Franklin County, was cut into Jackson County, then became Clarke County with its creation in 1801. The sale from Few to Easley was recorded 19 March 1800 in a Jackson County deed book.

Easley came to Georgia from Halifax County, Virginia, after the Revolution and was a Justice of the Inferior Court in Jackson County as early as 1796. He built a dam, race, and saw and grist mill at a shoal of the Oconee River, where the settlement called Cedar Shoals developed. A tiny settlement, it would make a pleasant location for young scholars and their teachers – far from the sinful diversions of



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established towns! The road from the town of Lexington to Jefferson crossed the Oconee River (near the Oconee Street bridge) at the Cedar Shoals.

Knowing that the *Senatus Academicus* had little money with which to purchase land, John Milledge *personally* bought 633 acres for \$1000 from Daniel W. Easley. This tract lay on the southwest side of the North Fork of the Oconee River. It was a win-win situation for Easley! Aware that his land might not be chosen, Easley had included a proviso in the deed that if the acreage were not used for the university, the land Milledge purchased would revert to Easley, or his heirs and Easley would keep the money!<sup>3</sup>

John Milledge then transferred the land to the *Senatus Academicus* to be used as the campus of the proposed university.<sup>4</sup> At this time, the *Senatus Academicus* was composed of Abraham Baldwin, Hugh Lawson, Benjamin Tallifero [sic], John Twiggs, James Jackson, John Clark, Joseph Clay, the Younger, Robert M. Cunningham, John Milledge, Josiah Tatnall, Ferdinand O'Neal, John Stuart, and James McNiel, who were considered the Trustees of the University of Georgia.

Daniel W. Easley was wise enough to retain a 30-acre strip along the main road (now Oconee Street) and the river frontage. In the deed records this is called "Easley's reserve," and on it stood his house and mills. Easley's home stood on the southwest side of Oconee Street and is now a commuter parking lot across from the present gate of Armstrong and Dobbs. Sometimes called Easley's Tavern because he took in boarders, his house served for years as the meeting place of the Jackson County Court until the court house was erected.

When Easley decided to leave the area, his house was purchased by the Reverend Hope Hull, Methodist minister and member of the *Senatus Academicus*. It is shown on the 1805 map of Athens as Rev. Hull's. This house was later owned by the Hodgson family.

A general purpose building was begun in 1801 to house classes, teachers, and students. Patterned after Yale's Connecticut Hall, Old College was erected with brick made of Athens clay. Because "undertakers" [contractors] and building materials were hard to obtain, the edifice took four years to complete.

The committee having resolved that the building they were directed to contract for erecting should be 120 feet long, and 45

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<sup>3</sup>Clarke County Deed Book B, pages 83-86.

<sup>4</sup>Clarke County Deed Book B, pages 87-89.

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feet broad, and three stories high, they received proposals for contracting for supplying the stone to lay the foundation, and to make the walls of the cellar, as well as for making and delivering a sufficient quantity of brick for carrying up the walls of the house.

These proposals were acceded to on the part of the committee, and carried into contract, and 1/6th of the brick is already made on the spot, and the cellar nearly prepared to receive the corner stone, and commence the work so interesting to the community.

For these purposes contracts with masons and carpenters are yet to be made.<sup>5</sup>

Abraham Baldwin had been named as the first president of the non-existent University. When he resigned this post to become U.S. Senator, he suggested that his replacement be Josiah Meigs, who had been Baldwin's student at Yale University. The Legislature and *Senatus Academicus* agreed and Meigs was invited to take the post and to create a college for 100 students in the wilderness of upcountry Georgia.

At a salary of \$1500, Josiah Meigs became the first **active** president of the University. He and his family moved from Connecticut, taking rooms temporarily at Easley's home; then they moved into the President's House, a simple residence on the campus near where Lustrat House now stands.

While Old College was being built, young men handpicked from the state's academies by President Meigs began their studies in a simple log building nearby. They would be among the University's first graduates in 1804 - 1806. Ironically, the first tutor hired at Franklin College was a graduate of the University of North Carolina, which was chartered *after* UGA.

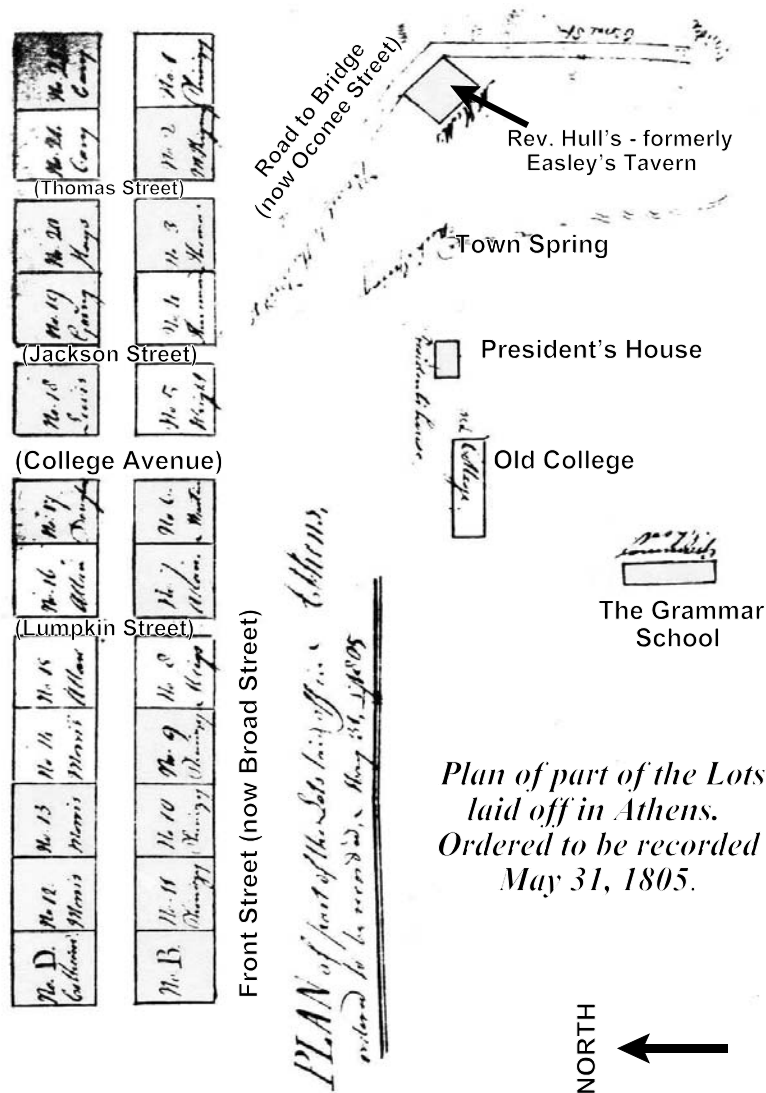
Because many young men wanting to attend the University were scholastically unprepared, a grammar school was erected by 1805 in the vicinity of Brooks Hall. Here remedial courses were taught; the young men boarded with nearby families or lived in Old College with the college students.

The college's land-grant endowment included a 5,000-acre tract in Greene County. The town of Greensboro was laid out and the lots sold to fund the erection of Old College. The *Senatus Academicus* decided to keep 36½ acres of the property purchased from Daniel Easley for the Franklin College "yard," today's north campus. The remaining acreage

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<sup>5</sup>*Augusta Chronicle*, 8 Aug. 1801.

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was subdivided and sold to individuals to finance other buildings on the college campus. This became the town of Athens.

Rev. Hope Hull and President Josiah Meigs laid out twenty-two lots in what is now downtown Athens, and the town's first streets came into

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being. Front Street later became Broad Street and Market Street became Washington Street.<sup>6</sup>

President Josiah Meigs had high hopes for the new institution, as he wrote an Augusta friend:

Athens, August 29, 1801

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 –

After passing the ford, which is about 120 or 130 feet wide, through a rapid stream which has just tumbled over the rocks below Easley's dam, about 150 yards above the ford, we ascend the promontory about 750 yards along the winding path, and arrive at the brow.

A little northward of this is the place marked out for a future collegiate building –

By a water level I have found the surface of that place to be 161 feet perpendicular above the level of the waters of the Oconee at the ford. This promontory runs nearly level a north-westerly course, through the tract, as far as I have examined. From the site of the building the land falls off gently and beautifully to the east and southwest. On the east the land is cleared, and has now on it a flourishing crop of corn, cotton and potatoes – a young orchard of apple trees – and one of peach trees – westerly is woodland.

The banks of the Oconee are bold, steep and abrupt – the rocks appearing in many parts. It is obvious that no fears can be entertained of unwholesome vapours from a river of this description, even though there is a small mill pond in it, for the water is confined by steep banks, and there is a constant discharge over the dam in such quantity, that the whole mass of the water in the pond is in motion at all times – it cannot therefore be supposed capable of generating poisonous miasmata. It is a fact that if the pond were empty, on shutting the gates it would fill and fall over the top in an hour and a half in the dryest season.

At 130 yards from this house is a spring emerging from a rock, which yields 3600 gallons of good water in 24 hours, as

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<sup>6</sup>A plan recorded in *Minutes of the Trustees of the University of Georgia* and dated May 31, 1805 was reproduced in *Papers of the Athens Historical Society*, vol. 1, page 6. The streets were unnamed on the plan.

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I found by experiment a few days ago – there are about 10 other springs within a quarter of a mile of the Collegiate building – the water of these springs is perfectly pure, clear, and as cool as it ought to be for health.

I have frequently amused myself in some of the fine mornings in observing the vapours rising swiftly in various forms from the river and tending away towards the rising sun, sweeping over the thick woods which cover the steep eastern banks of the Oconee.

After duly considering this description, which is true and exact, you will be ready to believe that the Committee have made a judicious choice, so far as health was an object. I should have added to the above account, that we are open to every wind of heaven. A calm is seldom known here – and the breezes, particularly from the western semicircle of the horizon, are extremely pleasant.

We have generally a pure deep blue sky, and the clouds are more distinct and consolidated than they appear to be in the low country. In a clear evening the stars and other celestial bodies appear in such numbers and brilliance as in our intensely cold and clear evenings to the northward, or as they did to Brydone from the top of Mount Aetna. If there is a healthy and beautiful spot in Georgia this is one.

Provisions are cheap and abundant. Board may be had at about \$60 a year; and if 50 or 100 young gentlemen should be admitted into the University, a Steward could board them all at one table at a much smaller price.

If the citizens of the middle and lower counties wish their children to be educated within their native state, and to be secure of health and good spirits and good wholesome food, and decent society, they will, on a thorough view and consideration of these and other facts which might be adduced, highly approve the judgment and foresight of the gentlemen of the committee who have placed the seat of the University at Athens....”<sup>7</sup>

Prophetic and true.

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<sup>7</sup>*Augusta Chronicle*, 5 Sept. 1801.

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### The Oconee River in *Finnegans Wake*

by Hugh Kenner

*Note: The life of the city of Athens has now flowed bountifully through two centuries on the hills beside the Oconee River which itself has gone on flowing bountifully through the hills and valleys of Georgia to issue ultimately into the Atlantic Ocean. In a contemporary affirmation of that long past “judicious choice” to acquire the property on the “north fork of the of the Oconee River,” referred to in the previous essay, this offering by Professor Hugh Kenner serves as a rather marvelous reminder that in some ways this place is indeed “open to every wind of heaven.”*

When we moved to Athens in 1992, lo and behold, downhill from our new house flowed the Oconee River. A circularity, this; for the name “Oconee” had been impressed on my mind almost a half-century earlier. I met it on the first page of James Joyce’s *Finnegans Wake*, a book I’d explored when a University of Toronto course left me hungry for more of Joyce, and *Ulysses* turned out to be banned in Canada, whereas the *Wake*, being unintelligible to censors, was available.

“The words the reader will see,” Joyce once remarked of this book, “are not the ones he will hear.” Thus the title tells us that a multitude of *Finnegans* comes awake, also that a *Wake* – a rowdy Irish celebration of someone dead – is being held for a man named Finnegan. And the book begins in mid-sentence:

riverrun, past Eve and Adam’s, from swerve of shore to bend  
of bay, brings us by a commodius vicus of recirculation back  
to Howth Castle and Environs.

Numerous clues identify that river as the Liffey, which flows through Ireland’s Dublin. “Eve and Adam’s,” that’s the Church of Adam and Eve’s, on the shore of the Liffey; Howth Castle is situated atop a hill at the eastern side of Dublin.

So we’re in Ireland. We’re also on the first page of a book that opens, like a fugue, with a statement of themes. A principal *Wakean* theme is that there are (as it appeared in the mid-1920s, when Joyce was laboring) two Irelands. One is the island in the North Sea. The other consists of a scattering of Irish exiles the length and breadth of America. They are descendants of the many boatloads who left Ireland during the famine of the 1840s. The populations of the two Irelands

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were, in Joyce's time, more or less equal. And the American one tended to supply the disturbers of the peace who made headlines in the North Sea one.

Well, the first Ireland has been introduced via a river that flows through its Dublin. To parallel that, we need a North American Dublin, flowed through by a river with a name that's manifestly non-European. One of these is Dublin, Georgia; and it's located on a stream called Oconee. Aha!

Hence, in the long second sentence of *Finnegans Wake*, we find embedded the following 23-word sequence:

... nor had topsawyer's rocks by the stream Oconee  
exaggerated themselfe to Laurens County's gorgios while they  
went doublin their mumper all the time ...

The site of Dublin's public buildings was donated by an Irishman, one Jonathan Sawyer. (Hence "topsawyer," which also shifts our attention to America in echoing "Tom Sawyer.") "Gorgios" is "Georgia" fused with Italian "gorgo," whirlpool. And the city's motto is "The City That's Doublin' Daily."

I used to mention to Athenians that their river was mentioned early in *Finnegans Wake*, and the answer was always a skeptical "How'd Joyce hear of it?" Well, now you know!

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### A Garden Journal from 1839

*A tiny journal, written on eight sheets of paper stitched together in 1839 by Mary E.G. Harden,<sup>1</sup> was recently discovered in Nina Scudder Collection (MS 45, Box 6) of the Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library, by Library director, Mary Ellen Brooks. It covers the months of February to June of that year, and gives the modern-day gardener a glimpse at the myriad of flowers that have been enjoyed for generations.*

*Here it is transcribed verbatim, including the variations in spelling that Miss Harden used. She underlined each flower as it was mentioned. Modern names have been added in brackets, where they're different. The parenthetical notes are hers.*

*Drawings of the flowers have been graciously provided by local artist Susan Carlton Smith Cavanaugh. Charlotte Thomas Marshall furnished some information on the people mentioned in the little journal. The journal is printed here with the permission of the Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library.*

#### **A list of Flowers that bloom in the month of February**

February is that first winter month in which any Flowers are seen in Clarke County. Jonquil - In the latter part of this month the Single Jonquil blooms, but we have yet (the 27<sup>th</sup> of Feb.) more buds than blooms.

The Box Vine or Running Ivy [probably vinca] blooms the latter part of this month. The Purple much before the White.

The White Hyacinth blooms the latter part of this month.

The Flowering Pear is in very full bloom.

The Purple Violet is in very full bloom the latter part of this month. We have two Peach blossoms in full bloom (the 27<sup>th</sup> of February).

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<sup>1</sup>Mary Eliza Greenhill Harden (1811-1887) was the daughter of Mary Ann E. (Randolph) (1794-1874) and Gen. Edward Harden (1784-1849).

Miss Mary Harden was courted in 1835 by John Howard Payne, who wrote the lovely old song "Home, Sweet Home." Payne, being "an actor, a playwright, an editor, a cosmopolitan, a peripatetic man of the world," did not suit her father, and Miss Mary never married. She and her mother are buried on East Hill of Oconee Hill Cemetery. It is presumed that her father was buried in the Old Athens Cemetery on Jackson Street.

A souvenir album about Miss Mary Harden was published by her cousin, Evie Harden Jackson, daughter of Mary's first cousin Evaline Harden and Asa Means Jackson, longtime Clarke County official.



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### MARCH

The Flowering Pear or more properly the Flowering Quince is in very full bloom in March. Jonquil - the double and single Jonquil is in very full bloom.

March 10<sup>th</sup> The Peach trees around the house are in full bloom.

March 10<sup>th</sup> A few of the Plumb [plum] blossoms were in full bloom.

March 11<sup>th</sup> the tree is very white with blooms.

Purple Crocus March 8<sup>th</sup>. I saw the first purple Crocus which bloomed in our garden.

Purple Hyacinth - March 8<sup>th</sup> I saw the first purple Hyacinth which bloomed in our garden, both they and the crocuses are now (the 11th) blooming very generally.

Hearts-Ease I saw the first Hearts Ease [pansy] March 10th.

March 15<sup>th</sup>. Every Hyacinths of every colour are now in bloom, white, pink and purple.

March 15<sup>th</sup>. I saw a Tulip in bloom today, the first I have seen this season.

March 16<sup>th</sup>. Saw several Tulips in bloom, they are of a very rich reddish brown colour.

March 15<sup>th</sup>. The Wall flower is now in bloom.

March 18<sup>th</sup>. The Flowering Almond is in full bloom.

March 19<sup>th</sup>. Saw some beautiful Lilac coloured Crocuses in bloom in the Botanic Garden. Our purple Stock Gilly Flower is in bloom. Saw a beautiful bush of White Flox [phlox] in bloom at Mrs. Hamilton's.<sup>2</sup>

Tuesday March 26<sup>th</sup>. The Yellow Jessamine [jasmine] is in bloom.

March 27<sup>th</sup>. The yellow Jessamine is in full bloom. Some of the blooms are dropping.

Thursday March 28<sup>th</sup>. The Wood-Bine vine is very full of large buds almost ready to burst. The vine looks quite crimson on the top but it is not yet in full bloom. The Caucus vines are very full of large buds and many blooms, but still more buds than blooms yet, though the yellow shows very perceptibly at quite a distance.



<sup>2</sup>Mrs. Thomas Napier Hamilton (Sarah Bugg).

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March 25<sup>th</sup> - The Jonquils, Hyacinths of all colours, Tulips, the Flowering Almond, the Wall Flower, Pink and White Flox (that Mrs. Hamilton has) are most all in full perfection - of all the above-mentioned the Jonquils are decaying fastest. Only the small yellow cup Jonquils are now in full perfection. I might have added the Purple Box Vine flower, though very humble, it is very pretty and I believe I might also have said the Crocuses - they were getting in full bloom the 19<sup>th</sup> of this month in the Botanic Garden - The Yellow Jessamine and the Wood bine vine - the latter will be in full bloom tomorrow I expect.

Thursday March 28<sup>th</sup> - The Peony has just shown itself above ground today. The White and Lilac coloured Lilac are very full of buds almost ready to open wide - some of the buds have already opened wide. The Persian Lilac is in [the] same state of advancement as the others, some of the buds on the clusters are in full bloom - March 28<sup>th</sup>.

Tuesday March 26<sup>th</sup>. The Pomegranite first showed its buds for leaves on this day.

The Shrub bush [possibly sweet shrub]

The shrubs and leaves form on the branches at the same time, the shrubs between two leaves, a piece of nature which I have been so unobservant as not to have noticed untill now. The Shrubs are now (the 28<sup>th</sup> of March) half grown.

Friday March 29<sup>th</sup> - The Caucus Vines are looking beautiful, they are in full bloom.



The Lilacs and the Wood-bine Vine are getting in full bloom.

March 30<sup>th</sup> - A few Lagerstramia [*Lagerstroemia* - crape myrtle] were seen today for the first time this season.

March 31<sup>st</sup> - I saw several Lagerstramia buds this day.

### APRIL

April 1<sup>st</sup> - The Cherokee Rose buds for leaves are just bursting into leaf.

April 1<sup>st</sup> - Saw the first Humming bird this morning that I have seen this Spring. It was drawing the Sweets from the Wood Bind Vine.

## ATHENS HISTORIAN

April 3<sup>rd</sup> - We have two very pretty Purple Flags [iris] in bloom.

April 4<sup>th</sup> . Saw a White Flag in bloom this morning.

April 8<sup>th</sup> . Two Eglantine Roses in bloom to day - the first that I have seen this season.

April 8<sup>th</sup> . Saw two Straw Flowers in bloom to day - the first I have seen this season.

April 8<sup>th</sup> . The White and Pink Flox is yet in very full bloom.

April 12<sup>th</sup> . The Scotch Broom is in very full bloom and has been for several days. The English Honeysuckle vine is in full bloom.

April 13<sup>th</sup> . I saw two Red Roses in bloom this morning in our garden, the first I have seen this season. The Snow-Balls are in bloom - some are in very full bloom.

April 12<sup>th</sup> . Some few Pinks in bloom.

April 14<sup>th</sup> . Saw a bloom on a Locust tree to-day - the first I have seen this season.

April 15<sup>th</sup> . The Snow-Balls are all in full bloom now. I have seen several of the daily Roses in bloom. The Wall Flower yet continues to bloom very luxuriantly and is very fragrant.

April 16<sup>th</sup> . The wild Honeysuckle is in very full bloom.

~~April 16<sup>th</sup> . Saw Syringa bloom is wide open to-day and several large buds are almost bursting [this paragraph was crossed out]~~

April 16<sup>th</sup> . Several buds of the Mock Orange are in very full bloom to-day.

April 17<sup>th</sup> . Saw one bloom on the Syringa in full bloom to-day, and several large buds almost ready to burst.

April 17<sup>th</sup> . One full blown Rose on the Wild Rose bush this morning.

April 17<sup>th</sup> . Saw a Pink in bloom in our garden this afternoon, the first that has bloomed in it this season.

*April 18<sup>th</sup> - One Crimson  
Velvet Rose is in full  
bloom this morning.*

*April 21<sup>st</sup> Saw two Crim-  
-son Peonies in full bloom  
and several large buds  
almost ready to burst.*

*Saw a most beautiful  
little purple Crocus,  
Tulips are yet in full  
bloom though fading,  
Pinks are blooming, I  
have seen the pink and  
red, The English Honey-  
suckle is yet in full bloom*

## ATHENS HISTORIAN

April 17<sup>th</sup>. Saw a full blown Cherokee Rose, not from our garden, however, ours are in very full bud, almost ready to burst.

April 17<sup>th</sup>. The Wall Flower, the Stock Gilly Flower, the Flox, and the Caucus Rose are still in perfection, and the Flag, both purple and white.

April 18<sup>th</sup>. One Crimson Velvet Rose is in full bloom this morning.

April 21<sup>st</sup>. Saw two Crimson Peonys [sic] in full bloom and several large buds almost ready to burst. Saw a most beautiful little purple crocus. Tulips are yet in full bloom though fading, Pinks are blooming, I have seen the pink and red. The English Honey-suckle is yet in full bloom. The Oak Vine that Mrs. Ward<sup>3</sup> has is in bloom, though fading very much now.

The Crimson Rose bush looks beautiful in full bloom. Pink Roses of all descriptions are in full bloom. The Eglantine looks very pretty in full bloom. The Cherokee Rose is in full bloom. The Sweet Williams are beginning to bloom very prettily. The Syringa is looking very beautiful. April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Saw one beautiful White Rose in bloom today, the first I have seen this season. I saw one beautiful White Rose in bloom today, the first I have seen this season.

April 26<sup>th</sup>. Poppies are in bloom. I have seen some crimson ones. The Snap Dragon is in bloom. I have seen several Roses on the Multi-flora vine in full bloom.

April 27<sup>th</sup>. The vine of the Traveller's Delight has several flowers open on it, but is cannot yet be said to be in full bloom.

April 27<sup>th</sup>. We have a most beautiful Rose in full bloom this morning on our bush called Prince George's Rose. The Peonies are now in great perfection.

April 26<sup>th</sup>. I have seen one or two Irises in full bloom.

April 27<sup>th</sup>. Several Irises in full bloom. I saw two feathered Hyacinth to-day in full bloom. Heart's Ease are blooming beautifully.

[This line is written faintly in pencil] Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> of April

The last week in April - Col. Cobb<sup>4</sup> mowed his clover the last week in April.

### MAY

May 2<sup>nd</sup>. We now have in bloom an abundance of roses - all varieties except those which grow on the portico, they have not buds yet. We have many feathered Hyacinths in full bloom.

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<sup>3</sup>Probably Mrs. Malthus Ward (Eliza Cheever). See the article about Dr. Ward elsewhere in this volume.

<sup>4</sup>Probably John Addison Cobb.

## ATHENS HISTORIAN



The Caucuses yet look pretty. The common kinds of Pink bushes are getting very full of flowers. The Wall Flower is yet very pretty. The Gilly Flower is very full of blooms. The Syringa and Mock Orange bushes are very full of blooms. The Irises look very beautiful - they are in full perfection. The Cherokee Rose yet looks pretty. The vine of the Traveller's Delight is in very full bloom and looks beautiful.

May 4<sup>th</sup> . Poppies are in very full

bloom.

May 4<sup>th</sup> . The Jacob's Ladder [*Polemonium* sp.] is now in full bloom.

May 6<sup>th</sup> . Saw the Foxglove both Red and white in very full bloom. Saw also the variegated or York & Lancaster Rose in bloom.

May 7<sup>th</sup> . The Privet is in bloom, the flowers are very pretty.

First week in May - The Pride of India or China Tree [another name for crape myrtle] is in full bloom the first week in May.

May 9<sup>th</sup> . Larkspurs of all colours are now in bloom.

May 10<sup>th</sup> . I saw today one bloom on the Arabian Jessamine.

May 11<sup>th</sup> We have a Holly Hock bush bearing white flowers which has one bloom just bursting open.

May 11<sup>th</sup> Our White Lily has one beautiful Lily on it, which may almost be said to be wide open

May 20<sup>th</sup> . Saw the flow [sentence not completed]

May 11<sup>th</sup> . We had English Peas for dinner to-day, not produced in our garden however. They were sent as a present to my mother by Mrs. Dr. Hill.<sup>5</sup> Had beans also.

May 20<sup>th</sup> . Saw the Flowering Pomegranite in bloom this morning at Mrs. Mitchell's.<sup>6</sup>

May 30<sup>th</sup> the Rose vine on our portico is in very full bloom now. Holly hocks of all kinds are in full bloom. Yellow flags are in full bloom.

June 3<sup>rd</sup> . The Pomegranite, Poppies, Yellow Flags, Ladies' Slippers, and some roses are now in bloom. The Mountain Hydrangea, Dahlias

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<sup>5</sup>Mrs. Dr. Hill may be Susan Holsey Hill, wife of Dr. Abram Scott Hill (1807-1866).

<sup>6</sup>Probably Mrs. William Letcher (Sarah C. Neisler) Mitchell on Hancock Street.

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of almost all colours, and the Mimosa trees are all in full bloom. And Holly hocks.

May - The latter half - the Mountain Hydrangea is in perfection, other Mimosas all in full bloom the latter half of this month. The Box Hydrangea is also in bloom the latter part of May.

June 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Mountain Hydrangea, the Box Hydrangea, the Tyger Lily, the Morning Glory, the Lady's Slipper, the Lagerstramia, the Bachelor's Button, the Holly hock, Pinks, Altheas, Cape Jessamine, Lilac coloured Flox, Oleander and the Trumpet Vine are all in very full bloom.

[In another handwriting, written in pencil:]

Written by Mary E.G. Harden, Athens, Ga.

[the remainder of the booklet contains blank pages]

**Note to our readers:** Previous issues of the *Athens Historian* contained excerpts of articles from Michael Thurmond's 1978 book, *A Story Untold: Black Men and Women in Athens History*.

This volume has been revised and reissued as a part of the Athens-Clarke County Bicentennial by Green Berry Press of Athens. Copies are available at the Athens Welcome Center, the Athens-Clarke County Library Gift Shop, and at various booksellers around town. A portion of the proceeds from the sales of the new edition will be earmarked for renovating and preserving African-American cemeteries in the city.

The Society appreciates Dr. Thurmond's contributions to the advancement of African-American history in our area. We look forward to the release of his second book, *Freedom: An African American History of Georgia*, in the Spring of 2002.

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### Malthus Augustus Ward 1794-1863

by Margaret B. Moore

Malthus Ward is a very interesting character, however shadowy at times he may appear to be. The son of Joshua and Elizabeth Whitworth Ward, Malthus Augustus Ward was born 11 February 1794 in Haverhill, New Hampshire, where his father struggled as a farmer to make a living for his wife and six children. Ward “probably attended Haverhill Academy and may have audited a course at Middlebury College,” according to his biographers, William Barlow and David O. Powell. He certainly attended Addison County Grammar School, housed in the same building with Middlebury College, which provided a thorough classical education. His notebooks are full of classical references.

Malthus apprenticed himself to a Haverhill doctor, Ezra Bartlett, the son of a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and concomitantly attended a course at Dartmouth Medical Institution. He left to serve in the War of 1812, although only a nine-day stint is actually documented.<sup>1</sup> Then, according to one account, Ward “traversed the country from Kennebec to the Lakes – thence to Missouri and the Gulf of Mexico – crossed the Alleghenies at three distinct places, and resided six years westward of them.”<sup>2</sup> In 1821 he came back east to attend Bowdoin College, where the Medical Institution of Maine had just been founded, and received his M.D. in 1823. There he took a class under Dr. Nathan Smith and met the writer Nathaniel Hawthorne, who was a student in the college. Ward may have known Smith at Dartmouth; Smith had founded that medical school, but Ward was there in an interim period when Smith was going back and forth to Yale.

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<sup>1</sup> William Barlow and David O. Powell, “Malthus Augustus Whitworth Ward,” *Dictionary of Georgia Biography* [hereafter abbreviated DGB], edited by Kenneth Coleman and Charles Stephen Gurr. (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1983) Vol. 2, pp. 1033-1034; and Barlow and Powell, “The Early Life of the University of Georgia Professor: Malthus A. Ward, M.D., 1794-1831,” typescript, Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library, UGA, Athens, pp. 2, 3.

<sup>2</sup>*The New England Magazine*, [NEM] Vol. 1 (1831): 274.

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Dr. Smith is also a fascinating character. He founded four medical schools in New England: Dartmouth in 1798, Yale in 1814, Vermont in 1821 with the help of his son, and the Medical Institution of Maine at Bowdoin College in 1821.<sup>3</sup> This was a doctor who certainly “did no harm,” and he believed, among other things, in the efficacy of cold water in treatment. He is, I believe, the doctor who “cured” Nathaniel Hawthorne when he was a little boy with an injured foot. His family was ordered to pour cold water on his foot every morning, which they did. Hawthorne was disabled for years, but the cold water and Dr. Time cured him, according to his mother.<sup>4</sup> Among Dr. Ward’s notebooks found in the Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library is one entitled “Dr. Smith’s notes,” in the back of which is entered the name of Nathaniel Hawthorne with the date 1823. Hawthorne was a sophomore that year, but he also took a class in the Medical School. Although Ward graduated in September, he left in May 1823, preceded by a note from Hawthorne to his sister, Maria Louisa: “There is in the Medical Class a certain Dr. Ward of Salem, where he intends to settle after taking his degree of M.D., which will be given him this term. I shall give him a letter of introduction to you, when he returns to Salem, which he intends in about a fortnight. He is the best scholar among the Medicals, and I hope you will use your influence to get him into practice.”<sup>5</sup>

Ward did move to Salem where the main bulk of his extended family lived. His immigrant ancestor, Miles Ward, had arrived there by 1638. His descendant probably moved in with cousins on the corner of

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<sup>3</sup>Barlow and Powell, “Student Views of the Medical Institute of Dartmouth in 1813 and 1814,” *Historical New Hampshire*, Vol. 31 (1976), pp. 92-107. Ward’s early letters are signed “Maltis Ward,” and later census takers and others made his first name “Mattus.” For Smith, see Oliver S. Hayward and Constance E. Putnam, *Improve, Perfect and Perpetuate: Dr. Nathan Smith and Early Medical Education* (Hanover, N.H.: University Press of New England, 1998), and Emily A. Smith, *The Life and Letters of Nathan Smith, M.B., M.D.* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1914).

<sup>4</sup>Margaret B. Moore, *The Salem World of Nathaniel Hawthorne* (Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 1998), pp. 82-83.

<sup>5</sup>Dr. Malthus A. Ward collection, Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library, UGA; *The Centennial Edition of Nathaniel Hawthorne*. [CE] Vol. 15, p. 177, ed. Thomas Woodson, L. Neal Smith, and Norman Holmes Pearson. (Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 1984.) The Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library has graciously given permission to use the Ward material.



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Derby and Herbert Streets in what is now called the Derby-Ward House. On that street also lived the Mannings, Hawthorne's mother's family, and, when he returned from college, Hawthorne himself. The writer is supposed to have written some of his stories in the Derby-Ward House and in its garden.<sup>6</sup>

Perhaps Ward had trouble establishing his practice, or perhaps he just gravitated to his real love, horticulture. At any rate, he really burst on the scene in Salem. At the end of May 1823, the *Salem Observer* announced that he proposed a course of Botanical Lectures and later that year he lectured on chemistry (May 31 and Nov. 1823). He also was one of the founders of the Salem Lyceum, one of the numerous lecture associations that graced New England. In June 1830 he offered talks to the Salem community on botany and floriculture. He was inducted into the Essex Lodge of Freemasons in 1828 and served as its secretary from 1828 to 1831. He was a trustee of the Salem Athenaeum, the library from which Hawthorne withdrew so many books. Somehow Ward practiced medicine and tended the sick at the almshouse. Ward also helped to create the English High School for Boys. In 1829 he married Eliza Cheever of Salem.<sup>7</sup>

In 1825 he became superintendent of the East India Marine Society, later to become the Peabody Essex Museum, which housed some very fine Polynesian and Asian marine artifacts brought back by Salem mariners from around the world. A new building for the cabinet (as the display was called) had been erected in 1824-25. In February 1824, the superintendent of the museum was "authorized to purchase any article of curiosity for the use of this Society to render their Museum more complete." Ward was elected superintendent in 1825. He was also elected a professor of botany and horticultural physiology in the Massachusetts Horticultural Society from 1829 to 1831, which he helped found. As he increasingly moved from the practice of medicine to horticulture, he came to know Hawthorne's uncle, Robert Manning, who had started his own pomological garden in 1823 and was

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<sup>6</sup>George R. Curwen, "Materials for a Genealogy of the Ward Family in Salem – or Notices of the Descendants of Miles Ward," *Essex Institute Historical Collections* [EIHC], vol. 5 (1863), pp. 207, 210, 212. Also see Moore, *Salem World*, pp. 212-13.

<sup>7</sup>Moore, *Salem World*, p. 210. Ward was lured to Athens by Alonzo Church, president of the University of Georgia, who had graduated from Middlebury College in 1812.

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prominent in the Horticultural Society.<sup>8</sup> In 1831 there was a festival by that society in honor of the new cemetery, Mount Auburn in Boston, of which Blanche Linden-Ward says in her book, *Silent City on a Hill: Landscapes of Memory and Boston's Mount Auburn Cemetery*:

... it was indeed the product of liberal religion, of Boston Unitarianism in its heyday. Toasts of the 1831 festival of the horticultural society revealed the new cosmology as well as the mockery of the old. Malthus Ward drank to 'Eden – the first abode of the living – Mount Auburn, the last resting place of the dead. If the Tree of Life sprung from the soil of the one, Immortality shall rise from the dust of the other.'<sup>9</sup>

When Ward made that toast, little did he know that in the change that was to come in his life, he would end his life in a cemetery, Oconee Hill, which has often been mentioned in the same breath as Mount Auburn, but so far as I know, there was no hint of Unitarianism there. I tell you all these details because his life in Salem seems such a contrast to the one he was to live in its second phase in Athens.

In September 1831 Ward was elected by the Trustees of the University of Georgia to the newly created chair of natural history. Concurrently, he was also being considered at Harvard. Malthus was to teach mineralogy, geology and botany, to superintend a botanical garden that would not only please aesthetically, but could be used in the teaching of students, and to keep a cabinet of stones and specimens for the same reason.<sup>10</sup> Ward and his wife, Eliza, with their two daughters, Mary Cheever and Elizabeth, moved to Athens in 1832. In 1860, Dr. Nathan Hoyt, minister of the First Methodist Church in Athens from 1830 to 1866, in an anniversary sermon, talked about the Athens of the

<sup>8</sup>*Salem Gazette*, 11 March 1825; Ernest S. Dodge, "Captain Collectors" in *EIHC*, Vol. 81 (1945), p. 30; *The History of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society 1828 - 1878* (Boston: The Society, 1880), p. 48. James Camack of Athens wrote to Robert Manning in 1842 saying that Dr. Ward had suggested that he could buy plants there.

<sup>9</sup>Blanche Linden-Ward, *Silent City on a Hill: Landscapes of Memory and Boston's Mount Auburn Cemetery*. (Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 1989), p. 184.

<sup>10</sup>*NEM*, Vol 1 (1831), p. 274; Thomas G. Dyer, *The University of Georgia: A Bicentennial History, 1785-1985*. (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1985), p. 79.

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early 1830s when he came from New England. He said that Athens had a population of about 800 or 900. There were four stores, one printing office, a weekly journal, two or three primary schools, two schools of a higher order – one for males and one for females, and the Presbyterian church had 60-90 members.<sup>11</sup>

In 1832 the Wards bought the house known today as the Cobb-Jackson-Ward-Erwin house on Dearing Street.<sup>12</sup> It was surrounded by the Botanical Garden which thrived under his attention. Ward evidently went right to work on it for at Commencement on 7 September 1833, the powers that be were pleased with “a beautiful Botanical Garden [which] is rapidly springing up under his assiduous attention and scientific culture.”<sup>13</sup> Porter Kellum detailed the description of the garden by Ernest Boykin in the *Botanical Garden Newsletter* in February 1982. Henry Newton recalled “a conservatory for the preservation and exhibition of rare tropical plants and flowers.” Sylvanus Morris noted that the garden “extended along the ravine above and below Broad Street.” He also mentioned that a gold mine was “just above the street on the [Tanyard] branch.”<sup>14</sup> Whether anything ever came from that I do not know.

The Unitarian Ward was caught up in a 1833-34 controversy that had arisen when the Friends of Equal Rights charged that the University had “an unjust and dangerous preponderance [which was] given to the Presbyterian Church in organizing the board of instruction.” The battle was waged in the *Southern Banner*, a conservative Athens newspaper. In March 1845, Ward added his name to a list of officers who said that they were unaware of any pressure on students of a denominational nature. He was identified as a Unitarian, but there was no such church in Athens at that time. For years he paid rent for a pew in Emmanuel Episcopal Church.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>11</sup>*Southern Banner*, 17 May 1860.

<sup>12</sup>Charlotte Thomas Marshall, *Historic Houses of Athens*. (Athens: Athens Historical Society, 1987), pp. 3-4.

<sup>13</sup>*Southern Banner*, 7 September 1833.

<sup>14</sup>Samuel Boykin with amplification by W. Porter Kellum, *Newsletter of the Friends of the Botanical Garden*, Vol. 2 (1982), pp. 15-29; Henry Newton, “Some Reminiscences of Early Life and Times,” *Papers of the Athens Historical Society*, Vol. 2 (1979), p. 7; Sylvanus Morris, *Strolls About Athens in the Early Seventies* (Athens: Athens Historical Society, 1969), p. 9.

<sup>15</sup>“History of Clarke County and Its People,” microfilm, reel 2, UGA Library.

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Ward and his wife and three daughters seemed to live quite happily (a third daughter, Sarah, had been born in 1834). He was seen as a very good teacher, known as “Dr. Pegs” from his insistence that “words are only pegs on which to peg our ideas.”<sup>16</sup> Charles Upham of Salem spoke of Ward's lasting influence on Georgia students: “Among his pupils was Alexander H. Stephens, who has expressed to me in the strongest terms the value he and all others attached to Dr. Ward's instructions, gratefully ascribing to him the credit of directing the studies, guiding the tastes, and stimulating the minds of those frequenting his lecture-rooms and participating in explorations and observations of the surrounding region, over which he was wont to lead them, disclosing the beauties and wonders of nature.”<sup>17</sup>

He also seemed to be well-liked in Athens. Another Salemite, Charles Sanders, wrote of his trip to Athens to Leverett Saltonstall on 12 April 1841:

Athens is very pleasant, much more so than Macon, we ought to have passed the winter there; many fine houses, and intelligent, well educated people – Our former townsman, Dr. Ward, is well esteemed at Athens, he was extremely attentive to us, showed us the college, and introduced us to the principal officers, and with Mrs. Ward, were very desirous that we should make their house our home.<sup>18</sup>

But in 1842 the university was forced to remove Ward and one other faculty member because the legislature had diminished resources. In the retrenchment, all remaining faculty had reduced salaries. Ward's dismissal from the college meant he also was no longer in charge of the botanical garden, although, I gather, he could still work in it and enjoy it. The garden wobbled on until 1856 when it was sold for \$1000, and the sum was used to put an iron fence around the front of the campus and to buy some trees.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>16</sup>Augustus Longstreet Hull, *Annals of Athens, Georgia, 1801-1901*, (Athens: Banner Job Office, 1906), p. 151.

<sup>17</sup>Charles P. Upham, “Memoir of Francis Peabody,” *EIHC*, Vol. 9, pt. 2 (1868), pp. 31-32.

<sup>18</sup>*The Papers of Leverett Saltonstall, 1816-1845*, ed. Robert E. Moody, 5 vols. (Boston: Massachusetts Historical Society, 1978-1992), vol. 3, pp. 88-89.

<sup>19</sup>Dyer, *Bicentennial History*, p. 43; Frances Taliaferro Thomas, *A Portrait of*

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The last third of his life I know less about. In 1846 there was another opening to teach natural history, but he was beaten out by a former student, John LeConte, who later became the president of the University of California in Berkeley. In 1850, according to the census, his personal wealth was listed at \$3500. He practiced some medicine, and in 1850 he was awarded an honorary doctorate by the Medical College of Georgia. According to the *Dictionary of Georgia Biography*, Ward “operated a profitable commercial garden specializing in flowers and fruits; experimented in adapting peaches, pears and apples to the local climate and soil; and maintained an extensive correspondence with prominent botanists and horticulturists ... he helped found the Horticultural Society of Georgia and the Pomological Society, and contributed freely, but generally anonymously to scientific journals.”

His last years were spent during the Civil War, which was not a very happy time for anybody. His wife and daughter contributed a quilt and a blanket to the Ladies’ Volunteer Society in 1862.<sup>20</sup> There was a hospital at Union Point for sick and wounded soldiers, called the Way-Side Home. I wonder if Dr. Ward shared his expertise there.

He died on 7 May 1863, leaving some slaves and many bonds of Confederate money. His obituary called him one of “our oldest and most respected citizens.” It was also stated that “he is said by competent judges to have been one of the ablest practical Botanists in the Southern States.” He was buried with Masonic honors.<sup>21</sup> The papers were crowded at that time with the news of Stonewall Jackson’s death and the news of various defeats of the Confederacy. Athens was generally spared the on-site horrors of the war, but the Reconstruction was worse, and Ward did not have to experience that. His estate was not settled until 1869, by which time his widow had died, and his Confederate money was worthless.<sup>22</sup> He was buried in Oconee Hill Cemetery in a

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*Historic Athens and Clarke County* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1992), pp. 40-42.

<sup>20</sup>DGB, p. 1034; *Southern Banner*, 19 Nov. 1862.

<sup>21</sup>*Southern Banner*, 13 May 1863.

<sup>22</sup>Clarke County Estate Records, Malthus A. Ward, 1863-1869. Ward’s daughters removed their grandmother’s remains to the cemetery. These may have been those of their father’s mother Eliza Cheever Ward, who died in Athens (*Salem Gazette*, 24 January 1837) or they may have been those of his mother-in-law, Mary Cheever, since she was listed as dying in his home in 1855 (St. Peter’s Episcopal Records, Salem, MA). In either case, either or both

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very different atmosphere from the time when he gave the optimistic toast in Mount Auburn. Neither Malthus nor his wife Eliza were laid to rest in marked graves. The Athens Garden Club honored the man and his grave with a stone and a marker in 1987.<sup>23</sup>

In the Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library there are fourteen notebooks of Ward's, covering the period from 1814 to the 1850s. They are full of classical allusions, bits of poetry and songs, classroom notes, and miscellaneous items. They don't yield much biographical information, but they do reveal something of his character, including his sense of humor. In one place, he was discussing the making of drugs, which he ended with "My pills must come from the papal chair/ they're so infallible."

In his *Annals of Athens*, Hull speaks of Ward as having no "manly beauty," that he was "ungainly," and that his clothing was "composed of parts belonging to different ages."<sup>24</sup> In other words, he was like many a professor then or since. But Hull also said that a "gentler, kinder man never lived." He was also an important man. I am glad that the Athens Garden Club recognized that, and I trust that others have as well.

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of these ladies would have been buried in the Old City Cemetery on Jackson Street, since Oconee Hill did not open until 1856. I am grateful to Charlotte Thomas Marshall for this information.

<sup>23</sup>*The Athens Observer*, 10 December 1987.

<sup>24</sup>Hull, *Annals*, pp. 150-151.

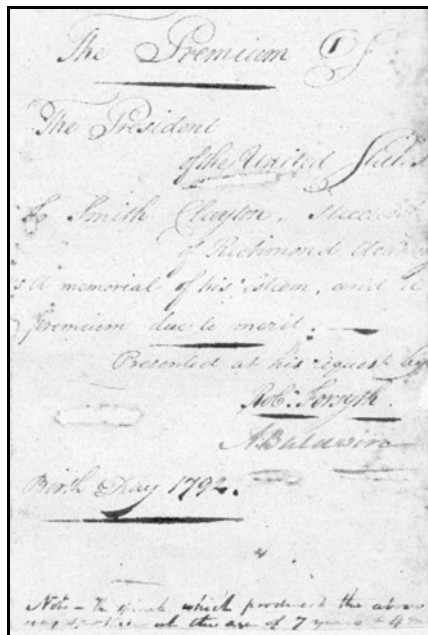
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### Augustin Smith Clayton 1783 - 1839

by Frances Clayton Bryan Brewer  
*his great-great-granddaughter*

Augustin Smith Clayton<sup>1</sup> was born in Fredericksburg, Virginia, on 27 November 1783, son of Phillip Clayton and Mildred Dixon. In 1784 his family moved to Augusta, Georgia, and his father became, successively, the Clerk of Court for Richmond County, Treasurer of the state of Georgia in 1794, and a member of the Georgia Constitutional Convention in 1795.

Young Augustin revealed unusual talents in the arts of speaking and writing. When George Washington visited Augusta in 1791 and attended an exhibition of the students at Richmond Academy, Augustin was not yet eight years old, but was one of the speakers. Washington was so impressed that he presented him with a copy of the works of the Roman historian *Sallust*. The inscription reads: "The Premium of the President of the United States to Smith Clayton, a student of Richmond Academy, as a



*Flyleaf of the volume presented to young Clayton in 1792 by Robert Forsyth and Abraham Baldwin, as representatives of President Washington.*

<sup>1</sup>Note to the reader: In some references, the "e" is added to Clayton's given name, making it "Augustine." However, in historical records, articles, books, and genealogy sites on the Internet, as well as on his tombstone, he is referred to as "Augustin."

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memorial of his esteem and a premium due to merit. Presented at his request by Robt. Forsyth / A. Baldwin. Birth Day 1792.”

After graduating from Richmond Academy, young Clayton enrolled in Franklin College (the predecessor of the University of Georgia) in Athens, to become one of the ten members of the first graduating class of 31 May 1804. Thereafter, he entered the law office of Judge Thomas Carnes in Augusta where he studied for the bar. He was admitted to the bar at Washington, Georgia, in 1806.

The next year, he married Julia Carnes of Augusta, the daughter of Judge Peter Johnson Carnes and a niece of Judge Thomas Carnes, Clayton’s mentor. They moved to Athens and made their home on the corner of Clayton and Thomas Streets. The Claytons had nine children: George Rootes, Augustin Smith, William Wirt, Philip, Almyra, Edward, Julia, Claudia, and Augusta.

In 1810, Clayton was appointed by the Georgia General Assembly to compile the statutes of Georgia from 1800. He served as a member of the lower house of the Georgia legislature 1810-1811. The following year he was elected to the Georgia State Senate, serving one term. He was then appointed Clerk of the Legislature and served from 1813 to 1815.

Clayton was elected judge of the Superior Court of the Western Circuit of Georgia in 1819. He held this office until 1825, and again from 1828 to 1831. During his last term, difficulties began between the state of Georgia and the Cherokee Indians, which ultimately resulted in the expatriation of the Indians. In 1829 the legislature brought the territory occupied by the Cherokee nation under the jurisdiction of the laws of Georgia. Judge Clayton firmly upheld the Georgia Legislature in extending the laws of Georgia over the Cherokee Nation, and he firmly denounced the Supreme Court of the United States for reversing his decision in the case of Worcester versus Georgia. On the other hand, the General Assembly of Georgia had made a law prohibiting the Indians from digging gold on their own land. In a test case, Judge Clayton declared this law unconstitutional. The decision was so unpopular that his son, George R. Clayton, later said: “In one case, ... I understood he was threatened with personal violence by the mob of his decision in favor of the Indians, and his friends were on their guard to prevent it.” Judge Clayton, according to Thurston Anthony, was aware of the unpopularity of such a decision and he could have easily postponed action in the case until after the time for his re-election, which was coming up in a few days. He was urged to do this by many of his friends, but he refused to delay the expounding of his



## ATHENS HISTORIAN

convictions, even if such a decision was to prove detrimental to his judgeship.

“In order to complete the story of the Indians, it might be well to mention that after several cases involving the Indians, and Georgia’s attempt to control those lands occupied by them in North Georgia, and several conflicts among the Cherokees themselves, finally, a treaty was signed, and, in 1838, the Indians, as their predecessors had done years before, started to moving westward to occupy new territories.”

Augustin Clayton was elected to the Congress of the United States in 1831 and served two terms. He believed strongly in state sovereignty and actively defended his ideas on this matter in Congress, where he took a leading part in debates on the tariff and the United States Bank, both of which he opposed.

Never one to be swayed by public opinion, Clayton was always willing to take an unpopular stand as long as he believed it was the right one. In Congress he crusaded against corruption in the Bank of the United States, chairing an investigative committee that he had fought to create. The final majority report of that committee was almost solely his work, and his was the only name on it. However, his efforts to remove the bank’s charter fell short due to resistance from the bank’s powerful allies. Only when Andrew Jackson became president and, against much opposition, began to move deposits to state banks (known as Jackson’s own “pet banks”) did the United States Bank begin to lose some of its influence. Not one to be intimidated by the president of the United States, Clayton still questioned what he saw as the corruption of the central bank, saying, “I consider the removal of the deposits more unconstitutional than the charter of the bank, because there is less doubt about it, and infinitely more mischief.”

Clayton also fought to nullify tariffs on imported goods that had been levied to protect manufacturing interests in the North at the expense of the Southern states. Sectionalism began to rear its head and the tariff controversy was, in many ways, as divisive as the slavery issue. He campaigned long and hard across the state of Georgia and in the halls of Congress, finally securing passage of a tariff reduction bill which reduced all tariffs to no more than 35 percent in 1835, 25 percent in 1836, and no more than 15 percent thereafter. The passage of this bill relieved much of the tension that existed between the North and South and was instrumental in postponing the start of the Civil War for another quarter century.

He voluntarily retired from Congress in 1835 and returned to Athens, where he continued his practice of law and activity in the

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affairs of his community. He was one of the founders of the company that first introduced machinery for the manufacture of cotton goods in the South. He was one of the founders of the Athens Factory, one of three cotton factories in Clarke County. Clayton was among the first to secure a charter to inaugurate the building of the Georgia Railroad. He was one of the committee to raise funds and superintend the erection of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Athens. His wife, Julia, was a devoted member of this church from its formation until her death on 3 June 1873.

Throughout his life, Augustin Clayton was devoted to the University of Georgia. Soon after graduating, he became secretary of the Board of Trustees, and then served as a member of the board until his death. When the alumni society was organized 26 July 1831, Clayton was chairman of the meeting. On 5 August 1831, the group met again with seventy-one members present and elected Clayton as its first president, which post he held for five years. He was also one of the founders of the Demosthenian Society. It is said that he had a talent for smoothing over difficulties between students and faculty, and for preserving harmonious relations in every department of the university.

In *College Life in the Old South*, E. Merton Coulter states that "the University of Georgia was in debt and dire need for support. A.S. Clayton hoped that he might make the state hang its head in shame and force it to help the University as the only road to an easy conscience." Clayton said: "Shall this state, one among the first, the wealthiest and most patriotic in the Union, evince to the world that it has less use for



*Augustin Smith Clayton*

knowledge, less taste for literature, and less regard for the moral character of her citizens, than did our ancestors in the earlier and ruder settlements of the country? Shall fifty years of experience profit us nothing and add nothing to the refinement of our character, the improvements of our morals, the enlargement of our judgment, the liberality of our sentiments and the exaltation of our pride?"

Augustin Clayton was said to be a man of immense industry, most cordial and affable manners, kindhearted, forceful, and of good temper

## ATHENS HISTORIAN

and sagacity. As a jurist, he was able and fearless. As an orator he was strong, logical and eloquent.

His knowledge of the Greek and Latin classics was proficient and he was esteemed as one of the best writers in Georgia. His writings were a combination of wit and intellectual information. Among his writings were "The Mysterious Picture" and numerous political essays. He is credited with writing *David Crockett's Autobiography* and *Crockett's Life of Van Buren*. Clayton and Crockett had been closely associated in Congress.

At the University of Georgia's commencement of 1828, John M. Berrien and Clayton defended "Eloquence" and "Oratory" before the literary societies. It was described as a "literary feast," the like of which had never been heard before a Georgia audience.

For the greater part of his life, Judge Clayton had been skeptical of the truth of Christianity. However, he was always respectful to those who professed their faith. He submitted himself to Christ in the last year of his life. Fearing that his influence of others prior to this might have led them into error, he chose to make an open, public confession of faith in 1838 before a large congregation in the Methodist Episcopal Church in Athens.

From that time on, his whole soul seemed absorbed in the subject of religion, prompting a rigid scrutiny into all his acts, principles and motives that might need satisfactory atonement. He experienced peace and joy, and prayed with great earnestness in his last days. He said, "I wish that the world could be brought into one embrace and that embrace were mine, I would throw my arms around them and bring them all to Christ." Among his last words were, "Oh, what darkness! What dismal darkness! How profound, physically speaking, but all is bright beyond. Blessed be God forever." To his children, he said, "If I could leave you all such legacies as I wish, and Christianity were set down at the price of a million, I would rather bequeath you Christianity than a million dollars. God first and man afterwards. A true Christian must be the best philanthropist."

Augustin Clayton died at his home in Athens on 21 June 1839 at the age of 56, leaving his wife and eight children. His funeral service was held in the college chapel on 23 June 1839.

George Rootes Clayton wrote after his father's death: "He was a man of spotless character, devoted to truth and justice, gentle in his manners, kind to all, unsurpassed in wit, and admired in every circle. As a father he was untiring in his attention to his children and especially in impressing upon them all the sentiments that ennoble the

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man; and to his early training they are indebted for their respectability and character. But the crowning virtue of his life was the devotion to his wife. As a husband he had no superior and seldom, if ever, an equal."

At his funeral, the members of the Demosthenian Society and Phi Kappa moved in a procession to his burial. Each wore black crepe on his left arm, which the organizations resolved to do for thirty days as a testimony of their esteem for Augustin Smith Clayton.

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## ATHENS HISTORIAN

### **The Charles Dougherty Family: Marriage and Death in 1853 Athens**

by Charlotte Thomas Marshall

*In 1982 through my friend and mentor Mary Bondurant Warren I became a correspondent of Mrs. Richard Shannon Graham of Bryan, Texas. Mrs. Graham had recently received cartons of family letters, journals, documents and pictures which had been stored for decades in New York, and I had become interested in the Shannons and their Athens kin while researching the history of Athens Baptist Church (now First Baptist). As Mrs. Graham shared items from the collection, I made annotated typescripts, and we learned about the 19<sup>th</sup> century family together. In 1989 Mrs. Graham decided the collection should be preserved in an archive. Happily for researchers of Athens history, she chose the Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library of the University of Georgia.*

*Charles Dougherty married Elizabeth T. Moore in December 1823. Their home occupied the highest hill in downtown Athens, the eastern half of the block bounded by College Avenue, Washington Street, Lumpkin Street, and Hancock Avenue – now the site of City Hall. The other half of the block was the premises of Mrs. Dougherty's sister, Lucy Ann Moore, and her husband, Seaborn J. Mays, whose home was later known as the Gerdine House. A lawyer and an alumnus of the University of Georgia, Dougherty served as President of the Georgia Senate before becoming a Superior Court judge. The Doughertys' only child to survive infancy was Frances Elizabeth "Puss" Dougherty.*

*These two letters about major events in the Charles Dougherty family were written to James and Frances (Moore) Shannon by Frances' sister and sister-in-law in Athens. The Shannons lived in Columbia, Missouri, where James Shannon was the second president of the University of Missouri. He was the first pastor of Athens Baptist Church and Professor of Ancient Languages at the University of Georgia in the early 1830s, when he and his family became close friends of Alsa and Frances Cary Moore and their extended family. Following his first wife's death in Louisiana, he returned to Athens to marry the Moores' daughter Frances, a younger sister of Mrs. Dougherty and Mrs. Huggins.*

*The letters and pictures are used courtesy of the Hargrett Rare Book & Manuscript Library / University of Georgia Libraries.*

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From: Emily G. Huggins<sup>1</sup>  
To: Frances C. Shannon

Athens [Georgia]  
October 15 1853

My Beloved Sister,

I have again to commence my letter with an apology. Little did I think when we parted that nearly six months would lapse at a time without writing to you. My heart would indeed reproach me if I had done it willingly, but I can with truth say that from the time I last wrote until the two or three last weeks past, I have scarcely been able to write to my dear Carrie and Cis.<sup>2</sup> more than once in five or six weeks, where as I used to write every two weeks.

My liver began to hurt me early in the spring, and has been more enlarged, and my head and eyes have pained me more than ever. When I was first affected with it, I did not keep in bed but little, but I suffered so much. Mr. Huggins carried me and the children up to the Sulphur springs in Hall where I remained nearly a month. I was there two years ago and the water acted finely on my bowels, and I was greatly benefitted, but this time I went there costive and waited for the water to act as before, but it did not act. I was taken very sick indeed so much so I was fearful that I should die without seeing my Husband or relations again. He was gone down to Butts county, but as soon as he returned he came up and brought me home. A good old Dr. unfortunately bled me copiously which brother<sup>3</sup> said was the chief cause of my extreme weakness.



Frances  
Moore  
Shannon

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<sup>1</sup>Emily G. Moore, daughter of Frances Tabb (Cary) Moore and Alsa Moore, married first Cicero Holt (d. 1830), second John Irwin Huggins.

<sup>2</sup>Caroline Holt Hill (Mrs. Benjamin Harvey Hill), 28, and Dr. Cicero Holt, the writer's grown children by her first marriage to Cicero Holt, lived in LaGrange, GA.

<sup>3</sup>Richard Dudley Moore, 44, oldest son of Frances Tabb (Cary) Moore and Alsa Moore, was a graduate of Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia and a highly regarded Athens physician.

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After my return Alsa<sup>4</sup> was attacked with dissentary and then with a violent cold that was prevailing through the country. He was very sick for more than two weeks, and though much better is not yet well. There has been throughout the country a great deal of sickness and many deaths from dissentary. Athens has been greatly blessed; it has not been bad there, only a few deaths caused by it. The people have not only been blessed with health, but they had and are still having a gracious revival of religion. I am sorry to say that none of our dear relations are among the converts, though they are serious. It is rather an unfavourable time for our family.

Peyton<sup>5</sup> is just receiving his new goods, and for two weeks past we have been very busy preparing for Puss Dougherty's wedding. Well she was married a week ago Wednesday, by Dr. Church, to Nathaniel Barnard of Liberty county.<sup>6</sup> He is small but well proportioned and quite handsome. He is well educated and of a good family. Puss, you know, is a spoilt child, and I fear will not act well her part. She is indeed only a child in age, fifteen last April.

Peyton bought and had made up her wedding dress and second day's dress and a great many beautiful things for her. She was married in a rich white brocade silk with four flounces. Her head dress was composed of a beautiful wreath of orange flowers and a white silk lace veil that fell gracefully over her shoulders and trailed on the floor with a



Fashion Plate from *Le Moniteur de la Mode*, No. 387 (1850s)

<sup>4</sup>Alsa M. Huggins, 10, writer's son by her second marriage to John Irwin Huggins.

<sup>5</sup>Peyton Edward "Pate" Moore, daughter of Frances Tabb (Cary) Moore and Alsa Moore, married Caroline "Cate" Applegate.

<sup>6</sup>Frances Elizabeth "Puss" Dougherty, daughter of Charles and Elizabeth (Moore) Dougherty, married Nathaniel Law Barnard, 21, on 5 October 1853.

## ATHENS HISTORIAN

tolerable wide hem and handsomely worked all around. Her white Sattin gaiters were richly spangled, handsome white rosettes and streamers and the most beautiful ear rings and bracelets I ever saw. In fact, she was no doubt the richest dressed bride that ever was seen in Athens. It would fill a sheet nearly to describe all her nice, fine things. All her under clothes were made up beautifully and so many of them. Her skimmers were prettier than any I ever saw, and fine dresses enough to last her years if she would take any care of them.

As to the supper it was given up by all who saw it to be the most beautiful ever seen in town before. Cakes of every description and shape and ornamented elegantly. Oranges, banannahs, apples, peaches, almonds, raisons, pine apples and water melons, ice cream, sherbert, wine and cordials. In fact every good thing that can be named.

I wish so much you and Carrie Huggins<sup>7</sup> could have been with us on the occasion. My Carrie and her Husband were to have come but their little daughter<sup>8</sup> was taken quite sick and they could not leave her. It was a great disappointment to me as well as to them.

Puss and her good man are to spend most of their time in Liberty. The old man has but two children now, both sons. The eldest one is in Philadelphia attending Medical lectures.<sup>9</sup> The old folks say they wish Nattie and Puss to live with them. I call them old, but they look young.

Addie was engaged to the youngest son.<sup>10</sup> The oldest one is quite handsome, and I think Addie would not say no if he were to address her. When she is not where the Barnards are, she is as lively as ever though she is in deep mourning.

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<sup>7</sup>Caroline Virginia Moore, 28, a younger sister of the correspondents, was married to Joel Huggins, younger brother of the writer's husband. They lived near Statesville, NC. The mother of Joel and John I. Huggins was Martha (Irwin) Huggins.

<sup>8</sup>Mary Henrietta Hill, 6, oldest child of Ben and Carrie Hill.

<sup>9</sup>Dr. John B. Barnard, 23, graduated from the University of Georgia in 1850. He married Harriet Moore, whose relationship to the correspondents is undocumented.

<sup>10</sup>Adelaide Moore, 19, daughter of Elizabeth (Stockton) and Dr. Richard Dudley Moore and a niece of the correspondents, had been engaged to Timothy Rowland Barnard. A member of the Class of 1853 at the University of Georgia, he died in 1853 at age 19 while in college.



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Brother Seaborn wrote you about the death of dear little Charlie.<sup>11</sup> I never saw any one more deeply grieved in my live [sic] than poor Pate. Cate<sup>12</sup> bore it with a little more fortitude. Her little babe<sup>13</sup> required so much of her attention she could not think so constantly about him as he did. A short time after he died Cate joined the Methodist Church. She sais she had grown worldly minded and neglected her religious duties, and she believed he was taken for her good. I trust it will be the means of Pate's conversion to God.

Hennie<sup>14</sup> has been with us since the first of August. She left last Saturday to make Carrie and Cicero a visit. Her Husband came up for her. They will not stay many days in LaGrange.

I am sorry Carrie Huggins could not come home while Hench was here. She will be here the first of next month. Joel is going to bring her and the children to see us and then go on to Texas to settle a plantation. Him and his cousin John Irwin, they started their negroes nearly a month ago. Mr. Huggins has sold our little farm and talks constantly about moving to Texas himself. If I am taken so far from my dear Carrie and Cis and my dear old Mother and relations, I do not think I could survive it. Trouble hurts me worse than any one in the world. We are so poore we shall be obliged to do something to make a liveing, but it is hard to give up my native country and all I hold most dear on earth and to die and be buried among strangers in a far distant land.

I wish if I ever have to go that brother Jim would move there too, and let me have one dear sister to live near and comfort me. Tell [him] I say he has so many boys he would do well to go there and settle them around him, and as he is so fond of teaching, he can instruct his and mine and make a fortune farming too. You see how selfish I am. If the prospect was not good for me to go I should be scolding him for

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<sup>11</sup>Charles Dougherty Moore, son of Caroline "Cate" (Applegate) and Peyton Edward Moore, died 11 August 1853, aged 5 years and 7 months.

<sup>12</sup>Caroline "Cate" Applegate Moore, 22, was the daughter of George Applegate of Grand Gulf, MS, and wife of Peyton Edward Moore, brother of the correspondents.

<sup>13</sup>Kate Cary Moore was born in the fall of 1852.

<sup>14</sup>Mary Henrietta Moore, 23, called "Henny" and "Hench," youngest sister of the correspondents; married Daniel Greenwood Hughes and lived in Twiggs Co., GA.

## ATHENS HISTORIAN

thinking about it. Cousin Steave Thomas,<sup>15</sup> Bob, John and George Dent<sup>16</sup> all pretend that they wish to go, but expect it will all end in talk. George Dent bought our place and has a plantation in Alabama. Well, enough of this hateful subject.

I was up at brother Alsie's<sup>17</sup> on my way to and from the springs. Him and his wife and children were quite well. Their youngest is quite a pretty boy. In fact they are all three fine looking children. Ollie came down to see us all a few days since. Mama<sup>18</sup> and Cate are going up to spend next week with them.

Our dear Mother has not been very well for some time past. She regrets very much that she can not come to see you. Brother Charles cannot leave Sister.<sup>19</sup> She keeps so sick nearly all the time and Ma sais she could not stand traveling so great a distance.

I am glad that Ann Mariah<sup>20</sup> and her sweet little boy are doing well. Give my love and good wishes to her. Ollie and Mattie<sup>21</sup> send a great deal of love to cousin Ann, and the rest of their cousins. I must in conclusion beg that you excuse all mistakes. I have no time to look over and correct them.

I would give a great deal to see your dear children. I really thought you were going to behave yourself better and was astonished when I

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<sup>15</sup>Stevens Thomas, Jr., 39, was the son of the correspondents' late aunt, Elizabeth Cary Thomas. He was a lifelong resident of Athens.

<sup>16</sup>George Dent, 49, married Frances Thomas, sister of Stevens Thomas, Jr. Presumably Bob and John Dent were his kinsmen.

<sup>17</sup>Alsa Moore, Jr. 38, called Alsie and Ollie, was a brother of the correspondents. He and his wife, Sarah A. Park Moore, lived in Maysville, Banks Co., GA, and had three sons, John A., 5, Richard D., 3, and Charles Edward, 9 mos.

<sup>18</sup>Frances Tabb (Cary) Moore, 66, daughter of Lucy (Tabb) and Col. Dudley Cary, widow of Alsa Moore, and mother of the correspondents.

<sup>19</sup>Elizabeth T. (Moore) Dougherty, 49, oldest sister of the correspondents and wife of Judge Charles Dougherty.

<sup>20</sup>Ann Mariah Shannon, 23, daughter of James Shannon and his first wife, Evalina Dunham, was married to Alexander Douglass. Their first child, Shannon Clay Douglass, was born 29 December 1852 in Columbia, MO.

<sup>21</sup>Alsa M. "Ollie" and Martha Frances "Mattie" Huggins, 10 and 14, youngest children of the writer.

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heard that you were going to have another child.<sup>22</sup> I have a great mind to send brother Jim a message but I will not for fear he may think me saucy. I hope this is the last.<sup>23</sup> It is too bad to be always tied down nursing babies though they are so dear and sweet after we do have them. Do write very soon a long letter.

Good by my dear sweet sister and Heaven bless you.

E. G. Huggins

From: Elizabeth Moore<sup>1</sup> [Athens, Georgia]  
To: James Shannon [29 November & 1 December 1853]  
Ansd. Decr. 27th 1853

My Dear Brother Shannon,

How shocked you will be to hear of the awfully sudden demise of our dear & honoured Brother Charles Dougherty<sup>2</sup> -- Universally

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<sup>22</sup>John Cary Shannon, the eighth child of Frances C. (Moore) and James Shannon, was born 22 July 1853 in Columbia, MO.

<sup>23</sup>There were two more children born before James Shannon's death in 1859.

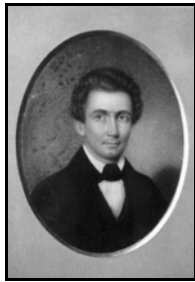
<sup>1</sup>Elizabeth Stockton Moore (born c.1815 in Delaware - died 1865 in Athens), wife of Dr. Richard Dudley Moore. She was an active force in the founding of Emmanuel Episcopal Church.

<sup>2</sup>According to *The Southern Banner*, Thursday, 1 December 1853, Athens, Judge Charles Dougherty [b.1800] died on Saturday, 26 November 1853.

Among the articles and tributes in this issue of the *Banner* is the record of the town meeting held as a tribute of respect of Judge Dougherty. The chairman appointed the following Athenians as pallbearers: Hon. Wilson Lumpkin [former Governor of Georgia], Hon. Asbury Hull, Maj. Thomas Moore, Dr. Henry Hull, Dr. Ware, Y. L. G. Harris, Esq., Hon. Howell Cobb [Governor of Georgia], Judge Joseph Henry Lumpkin [Chief Justice of Georgia Supreme Court], Thomas Wray, Esq., Dr. J. S. Linton, Stevens Thomas, Esq. [first cousin of Elizabeth Moore Dougherty], John C. Greer, Esq.

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beloved, universally honoured, he will be universally & sincerely mourned. It seems like phantasmagora, a horrid dreadful dream that he but yesterday in high health, fine spirits, glowing with kindly affections -- the purest humanity -- noble thoughts and aspirations is now a clay cold corpse, resting in that old dining room, the scene of so much joy & gaiety to one & each & all of us & to every one who crossed his threshold or claimed his hospitality -- resting there shrouded for the grave.



James  
Shannon

Alas! my good Brother, that man should rest upon such a unsubstantial nothing as human life. How little we realize what an attenuated thing Life is until some such sudden event occurs and we are startled out of our supineness and made to feel that Death is the one thing certain & that we are walking in a vain show. But you will think me didactic. I will proceed to give you a succinct account of the dread catastrophe.

Owing to Sister Betsey's<sup>3</sup> ill health, her appetite had become very fastidious and she lived almost entirely on birds. When he was at home he kept her well supplied with them and appeared to take great delight in the sport. Dr. Moore<sup>4</sup> nearly always accompanied him but on this occasion the latter declined going so that bro. Charles went with Mr. Robert Moore<sup>5</sup> after an early breakfast on Saturday last.

The day was a glorious one & he enjoyed it with his usual zest, appeared in uncommonly fine spirits & was very much gratified by his success in shooting & bagging birds. At sunset they started home. They were about two & a half miles from Town. A Mr. Yerby<sup>6</sup> joined them in the field nigh by to the place where they had left the Buggy.

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Dougherty County, created on 15 December 1853 by the Georgia General Assembly, was named in memory of Judge Charles Dougherty.

<sup>3</sup>Elizabeth Moore Dougherty, oldest child of Alsa and Frances Tabb (Cary) Moore, married Charles Dougherty on 7 December 1823.

<sup>4</sup>Dr. Richard Dudley Moore (1809 - 1873), oldest brother of Elizabeth (Moore) Dougherty.

<sup>5</sup>Robert Moore's relationship, if any, is not known.

<sup>6</sup>Probably Burrell Yerby (1836-1890). The Yerby family cemetery lies west of U.S. Highway 29 North near the intersection of Highway 72.

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Mr. Moore went forward to put the horse to the vehicle, leaving Bro. Charles and Mr. Yerby looking at & talking about a cotton patch of Mr. Congo's.<sup>7</sup> Mr. Y. left the Judge about ten paces from a zigzag fence towards which the latter was proceeding with his usual firm, manly, deliberate tread. The former across some fields on his way home. In a few seconds he heard a heavy sound, but thought the Judge had jumped over the fence. I tremble as I write. He happened to look back & not seeing him in the road nor any where in sight, an undefined feeling of surprise and fear flashed across his mind & obliged him to call aloud to him. There was no answer. He instantly ran back over the short space he had progressed & found the poor fellow, fallen in the angle of the fence, all huddled up, his noble brow pressed against the rough logs of the fence, his gun under his head & his feet & legs bent under him. Mr. Moore was there in an instant.

He breathed three gasping breaths, rolled his eyes upward, twitched his shoulders slightly & yielded up his spirit to the God who gave it.

Twas, as you may have imagined, an apoplectic fit. His Father,<sup>8</sup> after dining at the house of Col. Billups<sup>9</sup> Father,<sup>10</sup> died in the same way & it was the often expressed wish of our deceased relative to die in the like manner, instantly, without suffering. On several occasions within the last two years (was since he had a severe spell of mumps) he has suffered acutely from headache of a violent type.

Last February after making a long and exciting speech at Jefferson Court,<sup>11</sup> he experienced a terrific attack of vertigo, blindness, rumbling in the ears & failure of volition between the door and the gateway. It passed off & when he returned to Athens he consulted with Dr. Moore. My husband was very anxious about him at the time, but it was not spoken of except to Sister. Dr. M. put him upon treatment. He followed the advice strictly. He was always temperate in drinking. He became so in eating & did not drink anything the least exciting. From

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<sup>7</sup>Possibly David Conger (1808-1891) or his father Abijah Conger (1782-1866).

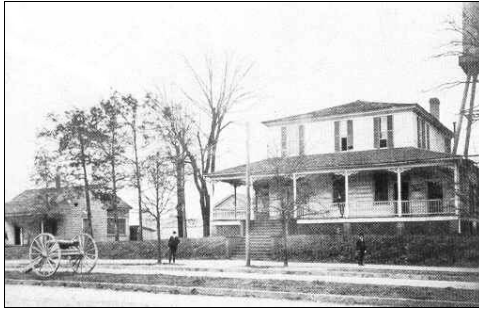
<sup>8</sup>Major Charles Dougherty [d.c.1810] had been Sheriff of Jackson County before Clarke County was created from it in 1801.

<sup>9</sup>Colonel John Billups [1802-1872], a prominent Georgian and resident of Athens.

<sup>10</sup>Captain John Billups [1756 VA - 1814 GA] married Mrs. Susannah (Carleton) Cox, sister of Rebecca (Carleton) Puryear Dougherty, who was the mother of Judge Charles Dougherty.

<sup>11</sup>Jefferson, Jackson County.

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Charles Dougherty's home faced east toward College Avenue. His law office was in the small building in the side yard. It stood on what was called "Dougherty Hill," on the present site of the Athens City Hall.

March until this time he looked in fine health & was never heard to complain in the slightest degree.

We little thought he would be called away from Earth, before our poor afflicted, long suffering Sister, but the Battle is not to the Strong, neither the race to the Swift. God's thoughts are not as our thoughts, or His way like our ways. He moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform & we poor finite

worms of the dust grovelling in His sight. What can we do, what say, only kneel before this awful God, This omniscient Being, terrible in his justice, glorious in His mercy with whom are the issues of Life and Death, kneel lowly before him, in humble submission. The Lord he is God. Let Him do what seemeth \_\_\_ good.

Dr. Moore and myself were out riding in the country. As we entered Town through Cobham<sup>12</sup>, Dr. Moore espied one of our servants mounted on a favorite horse, approaching us in a sweeping gallop. He exclaimed, "look at that scamp how he is riding Charlie," but of a Mother's fears are ever on the qui vive & I exclaimed "What has happened to my children?" But it was not there the blow had fallen. "Mass'r" bumblingly said the poor frightened boy, "My Mass'r, Mas' Charles is done dead." Oh the horror of the news. "Dead" said husband blanched to a corpselike hue, "How did the news come & where was it & when." "Mr. Robert Moore brought the news. He was with him. At Mr. Congo's field." Dr. Moore sank back "Sad news are aye too True." Not a word was uttered.

We dashed into Town. Dr. M. merely stopping to put me out & get his lancet. The street was filled with the different house gangs of negroes wailing oh! awfully, surrounding and following Dr. Moore.

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<sup>12</sup>Cobham, a residential section along either side of Prince Avenue in Athens, was developed by Colonel John Addison Cobb.

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My children were screaming. Poor Ada<sup>13</sup> at the door with her pallid, tearful face & black dress, holding her Grandmother<sup>14</sup> in her arms.

It so happened that Sister Betsey had been out riding & returned close by our house. Oliver<sup>15</sup> saw Mr. Moore who was waiting to see Dr. Moore & then the crying negroes, and he took alarm instantly, but Mr. Moore & Ada waived [sic] him to silence & to go home. The reins slackened in grasp & the horses sprang forward, jolting Sister so that she was forced from a reclining position into an upright one & this brought the negroes in full view before her & at the same moment Mr. Mays<sup>16</sup> standing in the street with a distressed countenance & Lucy Ann weeping beside him. Oliver lost all composure & screamed out "Miss Lu tell me, tell me is my master killed?" Mr. Mays checked the horses, opened the door of the carriage, Lu & himself got in & took the poor shrieking, horrified wife in his arms. Go to the fatal spot, she would more dead than alive. They had not removed him, hoping a forlorn hope that Dr. Moore might prove the blessed means of recalling suspended animation. They brought him home in a wagon.

Ada went up to the house. It was deserted, the poor frightened negroes following her lead. She got them to light fires, place candles in the rooms, light the entry lamp, shroud the pictures & furniture, fix the tables in the dining room for the body to be laid out & had water heated, in fact, did every thing her little wise considerate head & fond feeling heart could devise to assist & to console. Sister is very fond of [Ada] & when she saw her exclaimed, "Oh Ada ask Timmie<sup>17</sup> to bring Puss<sup>18</sup> back to me." You know he that was Ada's Lover.

The family soon assembled, friends, neighbors & ministers soon surrounded her. But oh all was vain. I never saw keener anguish than poor sister suffered. She has continued screaming until her voice is almost gone. She is like one in the croup & her pulse has signally

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<sup>13</sup>Adelaide VanDyke Moore [b.1834], oldest child of the writer.

<sup>14</sup>Frances Tabb (Cary) Moore [c.1783 VA - 1865 GA], widow of Alsä Moore and mother-in-law of the correspondents.

<sup>15</sup>Oliver was probably a slave belonging to the Doughertys.

<sup>16</sup>Seaborn J. Mays, husband of Lucy Ann Moore and brother-in-law of the deceased and the correspondents. The Mays home, later known as the Gerdine house, was in the same block as the Dougherty home.

<sup>17</sup>Timothy Rowland Barnard (1834-1853).

<sup>18</sup>Frances Elizabeth Dougherty, 15½, recent bride of Nathaniel Law Barnard.

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failed. We are prepared for the worst. Mother too is entirely prostrated. Alsey<sup>19</sup> has just arrived.

Dr. Moore has been worn out in body and mind, grieved beyond expression. Words. Oh their impotency to tell of such suffering!! to depict them in the colours of Life & Death, the pallor of the one & the dark stern agony, writhing in torture, heart wrung, heart bleeding, lingering dying torment of the other. Oh you don't know. You even you who knew & loved him cannot tell what a tempest of grief, what devastating horror this fell blow has caused & the end has not yet fully come. Dr. Moore is unfitted for business & he cannot sleep.

There was a letter of yours, picked up from the spot on which he fell, handed to Dr. Moore.

The funeral will take place tomorrow<sup>20</sup> 1/2 past three from the chapel.<sup>21</sup> Dr. Church<sup>22</sup> to officiate. There will be an immense turn out for a great man has fallen, a good man. One like Saul among his brethren, taller in all goodness & moral excellence than most of his fellows.

Poor Puss will be a mourning Bride. We hope for her arrival tomorrow & Cousin William Dougherty.<sup>23</sup> God grant they may get here to see him once in death whom they loved so truly in life. Though I greatly fear that "his pallid pencil who blotteth out all the grace & beauty of life" will have passed effectually over those beloved liniments & give to view what will only be a torturing remembrance of the loved & lost.

I can no more. A Dieu in love,  
Mrs. E. S. Moore

I will add a few lines to tell you Puss & Messr. William & Robert Dougherty<sup>24</sup> arrived on Wednesday in time for the funeral of their lamented relative & to take one last look. The scene of the meeting was

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<sup>19</sup>Alsa Moore, Jr. [b.c.1816] lived in Maysville, Banks Co., GA.

<sup>20</sup>The funeral was on Wednesday, 30 November 1853.

<sup>21</sup>Chapel of the University of Georgia.

<sup>22</sup>Rev. Dr. Alonzo Church, President of the University of Georgia.

<sup>23</sup>William Dougherty, like his deceased brother, was a distinguished lawyer and Georgia legislator.

<sup>24</sup>Robert Dougherty, another brother, was a distinguished lawyer in Alabama.



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painful in the extreme. Sister's pulse was so fluctuating for several days we thought very likely she would soon follow her husband.

Our whole community was sorrow stricken. There never was such a funeral. The chapel & its vicinity was crowded like commencement. Dr. Church officiated & about sunset an immense concourse of weeping deploring friends followed to the grave.<sup>25</sup>

Puss & Nattie<sup>26</sup> will now take charge of their poor mother, whilst she lives. There has no will<sup>27</sup> been found & everything has been given into Nattie's hands by William & Robert & Dr. Moore.

The gentlemen (or a committee of them) are out today selecting a place for a new cemetery, the old one being badly located & well filled up.<sup>28</sup>

Do write to Sister. I hope you are all well.

God bless & keep you  
Farewell  
E. Moore

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<sup>25</sup>Charles Dougherty was buried in the Old Athens Cemetery on Jackson Street, adjacent to the University of Georgia campus. The marked graves of his mother and his infant sons are there, but there are no markers for Charles or Elizabeth.

<sup>26</sup>Nathaniel Law Barnard [b. 15 April 1832 Savannah], an 1851 graduate of the University of Georgia.

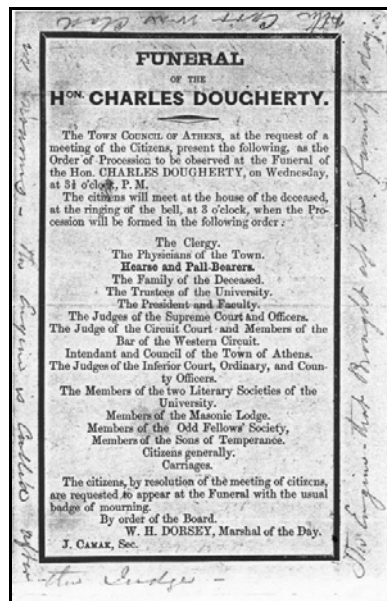
<sup>27</sup>The will of Elizabeth Moore Dougherty, dated 4 February 1854 and probated 19 June 1854, indicates that no will had been found for her husband. However, his will, dated 1 November 1838, was found and presented for probate on 22 June 1854. Extant Athens newspapers do not contain an obituary for Elizabeth Moore Dougherty.

<sup>28</sup>By July 1849 the University of Georgia Trustees were concerned that graves were being dug too near the residences of the President and faculty. For several years standing committees of the Wardens (now Councilmen) of the Town of Athens sought a desirable location for a new cemetery. Finally in 1855 land was purchased, and Oconee Hill Cemetery opened in the autumn of 1856. The early maps of Oconee Hill Cemetery contain the names "N. Barnard" and "Dougherty" on lot 32 on the crest of East Hill, but there are no monuments on this lot. It is strange that the graves of these two wealthy and prominent citizens were not appropriately marked before their estates were depleted.

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From: Seaborn J. Mays [Athens, Georgia]  
To: James & Frances (Moore) Shannon [November 30, 1853]

[This note was written around the front margin and on reverse side of the funeral announcement, which was printed on a black-bordered, pale blue half-sheet.]



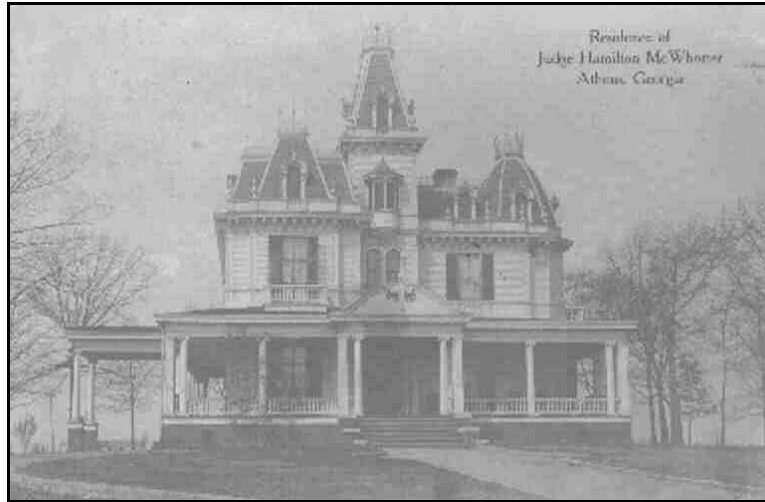
The Engine that Brought up the family today. The Carr was clad in mourning. The Engine is called after the Judge.

We have Just closed the last sad office & returned from the grave yard. We kept the Boddy 4 days so as to enable his Bros. & children to see him before he was Burried out of their sight. Excuse me for not writing fully but I have not the heart to do so.

Wednesday 6 o'clock afternoon  
All of us well as can be expected under similar circumstances.

S. J. Mays

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### The Judge Hamilton McWhorter House

*The Athens Historical Society will soon publish "A Postcard History of Athens, Georgia" by Gary L. Doster. From his extensive postcard collection, Mr. Doster has selected cards that illustrate unique views of Athens scenes. He has also delved deeply into local history to provide text that often makes original contributions to our knowledge of Athens' past. Watch for further details concerning this publication.*

Judge Hamilton McWhorter did not build the monumental Queen Anne house that came to bear his name. The house was built in 1885 by Dr. Henry Hull Carlton on Cloverhurst Farm, a 200-acre tract previously owned and developed by John A. Meeker. Meeker was a progressive farmer who introduced Athens to the use of clover to reclaim worn-out soil. Carlton named the house **Cloverhurst**. The house was sited at the top of the hill on what now is named Cloverhurst Avenue, and the street served as Carlton's driveway.

Dr. H.H. Carlton was born in Athens, a son of James R. Carlton. He graduated from the University of Georgia, then went on to earn his medical degree from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, as did his older brother Joseph Barnett Carlton, and two of Joseph's sons, William A. and James. H. H. Carlton was practicing medicine in

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Athens at the beginning of the War Between the States and entered the Confederate Army as Captain of the Troup Artillery, an Athens-based unit. After the war, he resumed his medical practice for several years and was engaged in other ventures, including being editor of the *Athens Banner*. He also was a state senator and U.S. congressman.

McWhorter purchased the house in 1901 when he moved his family to Athens from Lexington. McWhorter had a thriving law practice in Lexington and served as a Superior Court Judge. By 1901 he was General Counsel for the Southern Railway in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi. He was an active trustee of the University of Georgia and the State Normal School for many years. After Judge McWhorter's death in 1929, the house was razed, the street was extended, and the land was subdivided and sold.

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## **The Heritage Room of the Athens-Clarke County Library**

by Laura Carter, Heritage Room Specialist

The Heritage Room was intended to fill a long unresolved need in the community for a collection of local history, Georgia history, and genealogy. Its success is a reflection of the community it serves.

For many years, the only repository for most local history materials was Special Collections (now called the Felix Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library) at the University of Georgia Main Library. In the past, visitors coming from all over the country to do research on Athens and its surroundings were surprised to be referred from the public library to a library at the University of Georgia. Because Athens and Clarke County were on one of the major migration routes used after the American Revolution, for instance, descendants of those migrants would often come looking for their ancestors and find little or no help at the most logical place to begin, the public library.

Miss Sarah Maret, who from 1951 to 1976 was director of the Athens Regional Library (ARL), as the Athens-Clarke County Library headquarters was then known, accepted many donations during her tenure. When the library was located at 120 West Dougherty Street, due to lack of space, funds, staff know-how, and time, some items were stored in a closet and others in file cabinets. The old and rare books were kept away from public access on bookshelves in the director's office. It is unknown where these materials were kept in the previous building on East Hancock Avenue across from the City Hall.

Miss Maret sometimes personally purchased original art work (primarily paintings) of local artists and donated them to the Library. Some of the library's paintings may have been donated by the artists or others, but documentation on many has not been found. One Lamar Dodd painting was donated by LaGrange Dupree. Other painters represented include Lucy Stanton and Martha Odum. Although not part of the Heritage Room collection, these were part of Miss Maret's efforts to help the library retain a tenuous hold on something of the community. According to her niece, Flora (Mrs. Don) Faircloth, Miss Maret "was interested in local people and the art they created." The

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staff at the library often heard the comment of how unfortunate it was that Athens had no local history museum. Perhaps that is why Miss Maret accepted what she could when items were offered.

Out of necessity, the library often declined family papers and other gifts that would be major assets to the present Heritage Room collection. Again, people were referred to the University Library to offer their treasures. For the library to accept materials without the resources or intent to care for them would have been both impractical and unethical.

Over the years, books about Georgia, written by Georgia authors, or about Georgians had been assigned to a special Georgia Reference (GR) section. GR is the designation still used for the special collections of the libraries in the Athens Regional Library System. As reference books pertaining to Georgia or the local area were replaced with newer editions, the old editions were made GR and moved to the Georgia Reference section. Out-of-date city directories were also given the GR designation and added to a collection kept in the workroom that could be used, but not readily browsed, by the public. In the 1980s, the library began to keep its old telephone books from the local area and accepted gifts of those the library did not already own.

The Georgia and Southern history collection was further enhanced when Dean William Tate died and his personal books (those the University of Georgia Library did not need or want) were donated. Thus, in a somewhat haphazard way and without spending extra money, the library had begun to build the corpus of a basic local history collection.

As people cleaned out their attics and closets or relatives died, the library was offered other materials. Before the Baxter Street building existed, it appears that the Library accepted materials from those who came in with only a few items, while people who had boxes of materials were directed to the University of Georgia Library. Since there was no designated space for materials other than books and no person in charge of developing a collection, it was a "catch-as-catch-can" situation with no clearly defined policies and no real way of dealing with these materials as a collection. Most of these books, including reference materials, the Georgia Reference section, and the Elijah Clarke D.A.R. Collection, were available for the public to browse.

When the library building at 120 West Dougherty became seriously overcrowded within a few years after its completion, the Library Board

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decided in 1986 to investigate the feasibility of building a new, larger library. In 1987, after the preliminary work clearly justified a larger library, members of the Library Board and Kathryn S. Ames, the library's director, approached Russ Crider, Clarke County Manager. The state grant for a library system headquarters at that time was \$3 million. Later the Clarke County Commission voted to include a new library building in the next SPLOST referendum to be voted on in 1987. Included in the library's referendum package was furniture and equipment for the new library, automation of all systems, furniture and shelving, and a large grant for library materials to be spent over several years.

The library staff and Board of Trustees were directed to start dreaming about what was really needed in a new building, based on the library's stated mission in the community at that time. Patrons were asked what they wanted via suggestion boxes; one priority with many was a local and Georgia history research collection where people could also do genealogical research.

Naming the space the *Athens Room*, *Clarke County Room*, or *Georgia Room* seemed to be too limiting; the proposed



The Athens Regional Library

*Heritage Room* indicated a broader concept, one that would not be limited to a specific geographic area or just to history or genealogy. LaGrange (Mrs. Dan) DuPree, Peter Hodgson, David Firor, and Tom Wilkins were the primary forces behind the planning and were committed to the idea that the Heritage Room would be more than just a bunch of books sitting on the shelves collecting dust. They envisioned an interesting and useful collection in a variety of formats which would include photographs, letters, diaries, personal papers, files from community organizations and local businesses, and other materials that would make the period in which they were generated come alive for future generations.

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The board and staff, wanting the Heritage Room collection to be fully representative of the area's history and culture, talked with many African-Americans on the Library Board and others active in the community. Michael Thurmond helped develop a list of African-American materials to purchase. It was decided to place special collecting emphasis on African-American history as well as the Civil War, since both excite much interest in our community. The Heritage Room also has a basic collection of Georgia Native American materials.

Prudence Taylor returned to Athens Regional Library on July 1, 1989, as a General Services Librarian, dividing her time between Reference and Extension Services; later she assumed the position of Heritage Room Librarian. Miss Taylor was responsible for developing policies and procedures prior to opening, raising funds and support for the collection, and, between 1989 and 1992, utilizing the \$15,000 in SPLOST and State funds that had been allocated to purchase materials for this new collection.

Taylor and members of the library's building committee visited genealogical and local history collections in other cities to get ideas as to what did and did not work for facilities and to evaluate equipment such as security systems, microfilm readers, microform reader printers, and photocopy machines for the new facility. These combined trips took them to new library buildings in Huntsville, Alabama; Richmond, Virginia; Norfolk, Virginia; Durham, North Carolina; Columbia, South Carolina; and several cities in Florida.

After viewing these buildings and talking with staff at these facilities, it was decided that the room would be a separate space that could be locked for security and that it would be staffed rather than depending solely upon volunteers. It was also decided that at least one professional staff person would be assigned to the Heritage Room to insure that there would be the expertise and consistency in such matters as goals for service and the acceptance of gifts, and that the room could be open during the hours advertised. This was a major commitment on the part of the library board since staffing is the most expensive part of any service area. Since security was a concern with some of the materials, the room could not be left unattended; materials in this type of collection are expensive and rarely discounted, and require a climate-controlled system to minimize damage to sensitive materials. It was also decided to install a separate security system for the room.

At one point there was a real fear that the Heritage Room would not be a reality for some years to come. In 1990, the estimates for the new



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library were \$1 million over budget and one of the cost cutting options considered by the board was to rough in the Heritage Room, but leave the space unfinished. Other choices were made, however, and the Heritage Room was finished. The new library came in under budget.

There was a concern that the collection would look pitifully small in its brand new quarters. With a limited materials budget from State and SPLOST funds, even with considerable support from patrons, the planners projected that it would be at least ten years before the Heritage Room experienced overcrowding problems. In retrospect, community support was underestimated, thus the reading room, storage space and workroom space have already proved to be inadequate.

The Heritage Room opened its doors on April 28, 1992, the day the new Athens-Clarke County Library building opened to the public. The new library building at 2025 Baxter Street, funded by a \$3 million capital funds grant from the State of Georgia and approximately \$3.45 million in Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) revenues, was paid for when it opened. This included all furniture, shelving, equipment, computers, automation and technology systems, and materials. This new library provided the opportunity to build the space. The support to fill it has come from a myriad of sources, enabling the collection to grow faster than anyone predicted.

Many people helped to decide what was basic and to begin building rapport with local organizations and individuals that would use and hopefully encourage support for the new Heritage Room. Jessie Mize, Mary Bondurant Warren, Tommie LaCavera, Linda Aaron, and Charlotte Thomas Marshall all provided advice and moral support.

With the \$15,000 startup money, Taylor purchased the 1820-1920 Federal censuses for Georgia on microfilm and ordered what printed indexes were available for them; ordered the early Athens-Clarke County newspapers on microfilm; and purchased microfilm of the Clarke County will, marriage, and deed records from the Georgia Department of Archives and History, and the microfilm roll of the Sanborn Fire Insurance maps that included Athens. All of these materials provided a core for historical and genealogical research. Tom Wilkins of the Library Board, and his wife Ann, who worked for Georgia Power Company, helped to secure a \$5000 grant from the Georgia Power Foundation that was used for the interior of the Heritage Room.

The Heritage Room collection currently includes 6,425 books, 1,918 rolls of microfilm, 940 microfiche, 112 audiocassettes, more than

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50 videocassettes, and a number of periodicals and files of clippings on Athens and Georgia. Approximately one-third of the books and periodicals now in the collection were donated by Mary Bondurant Warren, Phinizy Spalding, the Elijah Clarke Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.), George Kozelnicky, and the Clarke-Oconee Genealogical Society (COGS). Much of the rest of the collection came one or two volumes at a time from individuals who wanted to help. The decision by the board to include more than books in this Heritage Room has yielded a stronger research collection and made it more interesting to students.

For many years, the Elijah Clarke Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution had placed its collection of genealogical research materials in the Athens Regional Library on "permanent" loan. These materials included books, the chapter's scrapbooks, publications of the National Society and Georgia Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and publications of the Elijah Clarke Chapter including Bible records collected by the members in the Athens and Clarke County area in the 1930s and 1940s. Members made donations to this collection over time and the chapter provided limited funding for rebinding and repair of the materials as needed. It was a research collection and was not available to be checked out. The D.A.R. used their own unique numbering system and developed a card file that worked as an index to their collection; thus none of the D.A.R. materials were reflected in the card catalog of the library.

In a changing environment of tax consciousness, public libraries had been criticized for providing free storage for materials not owned by taxpayers, so sizeable collections on loan were beginning to be frowned upon. The Library's administration asked, and with the help of Jessie Mize, the D.A.R. chapter graciously donated its collection to the library. It was then cataloged, added to the Heritage Room collection, and reflected in the new online catalog; thus increasing accessibility to this valuable collection for the general user.

Mary Bondurant Warren retired in 1990 and moved to smaller quarters. A native Athenian, professional genealogist, author, and publisher, Warren donated a large portion of her collection of books and periodicals to the Heritage Room. Although not all these books were processed at the time of opening, these 850-plus books provided a solid foundation for our genealogy collection.

George Kozelnicky donated a strong collection on trains and railroading and materials on the Civil War. Susan Barrow Tate, widow

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of Dean William Tate, donated more books from their personal collection. Kathy Davis at the Family History Center at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints offered to copy the contents of the surname files compiled by the Clarke-Oconee Genealogical Society (COGS) for the new collection. COGS also donated periodicals, books, and other materials. COGS members Nancy Copley, Dr. W.C. (Mac) MacArthur and his wife Helen, Pam Wilson, Dr. Carroll McDuffie, Dr. James T. (Jim) Rice, and Dr. Gayther Plummer offered advice, support and ideas. The Thomas Miller Chapter of the Society of Colonial Dames of the Seventeenth Century donated its scrapbooks and a number of books. The Laura Rutherford Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (U.D.C.) donated books and has made donations each year since. The General John Baytopp Scott Chapter of the National Society, United States Daughters of 1812, also donated materials at the beginning.

The Brigadier General T.R.R. Cobb Camp Number 97, Sons of Confederate Veterans provides money each year to purchase wonderful materials for the collection relating to the Civil War and the Confederacy. These and other lineage societies such as Sons of the American Revolution and the Society of the War of 1812 in Georgia provide continuing support for the collection. Athens Historical Society, the local historical society; Clarke-Oconee Genealogical Society (COGS), the local genealogical society; and Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation, the local historic preservation organization – all work with the Heritage Room to enhance the scope of what projects can be undertaken by providing funds and volunteers to tackle projects impossible without this assistance.

In 1994, B. Phinzy Spalding's collection of books and periodicals in southern history and culture came to the Heritage Room through the thoughtfulness and generosity of Spalding and his widow. Spalding had been a professor of history at the University of Georgia, and his personal papers went to the Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library at the University of Georgia.

All of these materials provided the collection with a firm grounding in materials on Southern history and culture. Suddenly, the Heritage Room collection was beginning to be a substantive collection in quantity and in quality. The Heritage Room continues to welcome donations of personal papers such as diaries, postcards, letters, photographic images, manuscripts, relating to the Northeast Georgia area and high school yearbooks from Clarke County schools. There is

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a good collection of the University of Georgia yearbook, *Pandora*, thanks to a recent donation from Charles Rowland IV. Donations of family histories are encouraged since the Heritage Room does not purchase those.

Interesting donations continue to come in for the collection. Rufus Paine donated some wonderful stock certificates of local companies, and a broadside of the roster of Johnson's Guards (a Confederate infantry unit organized in present day Oconee County) from a reunion probably around 1890. In memory of his mother, Dick Mendenhall donated family papers from the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and the autograph collection he began as a teenager. Mrs. Mendenhall was a longtime library supporter and library board member. H. Randolph Holder donated copies of the weekly editorials he wrote and read on the air on WGAU and WNGC, the radio stations he owned. The editorial collection has been indexed and works almost as an index to major events in this community for the mid- to late-20<sup>th</sup> century.

An oral history project is currently underway on the desegregation of the Clarke County public schools. This will hopefully be followed by more oral history projects and these "verbal snapshots" of personal history from the 20<sup>th</sup> century will then be preserved for the use of future researchers. In 1995, World War II veterans were interviewed and those videotapes remain in the collection.

The Heritage Room has sponsored genealogy workshops and other programs since shortly after opening in 1992. Sometimes programs by more well-known speakers were co-sponsored by COGS and the Heritage Room. Jessie Mize and Mary Bondurant Warren both volunteered and presented programs. Later Prudence Taylor did beginning genealogy workshops for the public and for the branch libraries in the Athens Regional Library System. Other past programs have included Martha Redus on Cherokee genealogy, Dr. Robert Nix on old photographs, Henry Ramsey on evaluating old books and papers, Bill Smedlund on Georgia's Troup Artillery, and Jewish genealogy.

Currently there is a monthly program called "Getting Started with Genealogy" in the Heritage Room designed to introduce people to the wealth of resources available to researchers in our area. James T. Rice volunteers four to six times a year to teach the "Genealogy on the Internet" class. This six-hour class is taught on two different days. These programs are intended to make people feel welcome and comfortable in coming to the library and especially the Heritage Room to use the resources.

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The Heritage Room accepts donations (especially those from the Northeast Georgia area) of family papers and documents, photographic images, letters, diaries, business records such as journals and ledgers, minute books and other records of clubs and organizations, and other old papers such as are often found in attics and basements. When people find boxes of old papers or “stuff,” for instance, in an older relative’s home, these boxes often get taken to the landfill because no one has the time or energy to go through them. Part of the work of the Heritage Room is to educate people to bring the “stuff” to the library “as is” so as not to disturb the order, which can often be revealing. Researchers seem particularly interested in photographs and there are only a few in the collection so far. These primary source materials from ordinary people can present a much different picture of life in the area than compilations and published works.

Old school yearbooks and directories from Clarke County schools are needed. More material from the African-American community is critical to providing a balanced view of our area. Some area churches have published histories and there are copies available, but there are many churches that need to do substantive church histories. Postcards, drawings, and other pictorial images of buildings and places can be great tools.

Due to limited financial resources, there will never be enough funds in the library’s budget to purchase everything that the Heritage Room collection needs. The Heritage Room should continue to grow and improve if the library’s administration, staff, and library board remain committed to working with community organizations, area repositories and the public to make available materials and to connect users to resources that serve their need to know about this area. If the Heritage Room persists in its efforts to make history accessible, the people of this community should continue to get out and work to help expand the collection’s success.

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### The Story of the Walnut Tree

by John P. Bondurant II

During World War I, poisonous gas was used and gas masks were required in great numbers. The gas mask must have a canister filled with charcoal to clear the poison from the air that the soldier breathes. Walnut hulls were found to be a good source for charcoal. The combination of Arbor Day and the need for charcoal for gas masks probably contributed to the planting of walnut trees sponsored by the school system.



All of us at Childs Street School were marched over to the Ag College, and each pupil was given a small walnut tree to take home and plant. The teachers taught us a little song to sing on this journey (sung to the tune of *The Little Brown Jug*):

John Bondurant's  
eighty-three year-old  
walnut tree

Ha, ha, ha, you and me,  
I'm going to plant a walnut tree;  
Go out to the old Ag Farm,  
Get my little tree under my arm.  
Come back home, the shortest route,  
Set my little black walnut out.

The tree that I planted in 1918 on our back lot still grows at the corner of Hill and Hillcrest. But none of its walnut hulls have ever been used for gas mask canisters!

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## **A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ATHENS HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Excerpted from a history by  
Susan Frances Barrow Tate.

On October 11, 1959, at an informal organizational meeting the Athens Historical Society was born. This meeting was held in the Athens Regional Library, then located on the corner of Hancock and College Avenues. The founders of the Society were Sarah Maret, Director of the Athens Regional Library; John E. Talmadge, Professor of English, University of Georgia; Porter Kellam, Director of the University of Georgia Libraries; Kenneth Coleman, Professor of History, University of Georgia; Richard N. Fickett III; Marion West Marshall; Harry Hodgson, Sr.; John W. Bonner, Special Collections Librarian, University of Georgia Library; Susan Frances Barrow Tate, Library Assistant, University of Georgia Library; and Robert E. Gibson. Temporary committees were formed to plan a general organization meeting to be held October 29, 1959. At this meeting, held in the auditorium of the Chamber of Commerce building, a constitution was approved, aims and/or purposes of the society were formulated, and committees were appointed.

The purposes and aims of the Athens Historical Society expressed in the current constitution are:

1. To discover, collect and preserve all materials, especially original and source materials, pertaining to the history of or in any manner illustrative of Athens, Clarke County, adjacent counties, and related areas.
2. To disseminate this knowledge for the enlightenment of our citizenry through preparing, editing and publishing historical materials, descriptive and illustrative of Athens and related areas through programs or historical papers.
3. To promote historical research.
4. To promote preservation and perpetuation of historic sites and places.
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 historic past.
7. Notwithstanding any provision of these articles, this organization shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from federal income tax under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law.

***Publications of the  
Athens Historical Society***  
(Listed chronologically)

Marshall, Marion West and Mary Bondurant Warren, eds. *Papers of the Athens Historical Society*, Vol. I, 99 pp., illustrations. 1964. **(out of print)**

Morris, Sylvanus. *Strolls About Athens During the Early Seventies*. 1912. Reprinted by the Athens Historical Society, 56 pp., index. 1969. \$5.00

Marshall, Charlotte Thomas, ed. *Oconee Hill Cemetery: Tombstone Transcriptions for that Part of the Cemetery West of the Oconee River*. 149 pp., map, indexes. 1971. **(out of print - revision is underway)**

Thomas, W.W. *Map of Athens*. 1974. Reprinted by Athens Historical Society, 36" x 45", sepia and moss green ink on cream stock. 1974. \$15.00

Cooper, Patricia Irvin, ed. *Papers of the Athens Historical Society*, Vol. II, 147 pp., illustrations, index. 1979. \$10.00

Marshall, Charlotte Thomas. *Historic Houses of Athens*. 76 pp., illustrations, index. 1987. \$10.00 **(out of print)**

Bogue, Ronald. *Historical Houses of Athens, Georgia*. 23-minute color videocassette. 1987. \$25.00

Tate, Susan Frances Barrow. *Remembering Athens*. 266 pp., illustrations, index. 1996. \$25.00 **(out of print)**

Koenig, Marie Hodgson, ed. *Athens Historian*, Vol. 1, Number 1. October 1996. 48 pp. \$5.00

\_\_\_\_\_. *Athens Historian*, Vol. 2, Number 1. October 1997. 40 pp. \$5.00

\_\_\_\_\_. *Athens Historian*, Vol. 3, Number 1. October 1998. 40 pp. \$5.00

Weeks, Eve B., ed. *Athens-Clarke County Cemeteries*. 390 pp., maps, full index. 1999. \$30.00

Koenig, Marie Hodgson, ed. *Athens Historian*, Vol. 4, Number 1. October 1999. 56 pp. \$5.00

Ramsey, Henry, ed. *Athens Historian*, Vol. 5, Number 1, with five-year topical index. October 2000. 80 pp. \$5.00

\_\_\_\_\_, *Athens Historian*, Vol. 6 with index, 2001. 68 pp. \$5.00

Doster, Gary L. *A Postcard History of Athens, Georgia*. **To be released in 2002.**