



THE PEACOCK QUILL



Whitfield-Murray Historical Society

November 2015

CALENDAR



CHRISTMAS SALE

Fri., Nov. 6, 10:00-4:00
Sat., Nov. 7, 9:00-noon
At the archives

NOVEMBER MEETING

Sun., Nov. 15, 2:30 p.m.
The Emery Center
110 W. Emery St., Dalton

HOLIDAY HOUSE

Sat.-Sun., Dec. 5-6, 2:00-5:00 p.m.
City of Cohutta sites

POLAR EXPRESS

Sat., Dec. 6, 12:00-4:00 p.m.
Chatsworth Depot
Stories, trains, refreshments, tours

CANDLELIGHT TOURS

Fri.-Sat., Dec. 11-12, 5:00-9:00 p.m.
Vann House

**DONATE ITEMS FOR CHRISTMAS
& RUMMAGE SALES ANY TIME.**
Call 706-278-0217 if pickup needed.

NEWS FROM THE HUFF HOUSE

Renovation work is in progress at the Huff House. Work on the house has uncovered details not in evidence during the 2013 Holiday House tour.

Some foundation timbers have been replaced & floors leveled. As a damaged portion of the south foyer wall was being removed where the plaster had separated from the wall, an original 1904 fireplace was discovered. It had been covered over when the coal-fired furnace was installed in the early to middle 1900s.

Stay tuned as the Huff House committee continues renovation & the house reveals more secrets!

NOV. PROGRAM WILL FEATURE EMERY CENTER

The Sun., Nov. 15 membership meeting will be held at the Emery Center. The 2:30 p.m. meeting will provide upgrades done at the Center recently. Emery Center director Curtis Rivers will speak & provide tours.

The Emery Center, the local African-American museum, is housed in the historic Emery Street School, 110 W. Emery St., in Dalton.

In addition to the program, the nominating committee will present the proposed slate of officers & trustees for 2016; & members will vote.

HISTORICAL QUESTION #15

In each newsletter, we ask a question about local history. To check your accuracy (or to find the answer!), just go to our website: www.whitfield-murrayhistoricalsociety.org.

The fourteenth question appeared in the Sept. newsletter: What Dalton club is the oldest women's literary organization in the state of Georgia? ANSWER: The Lesche. Founded in Dalton in 1890 by Gertrude Manly Jones, the club's original purpose was to provide learning opportunities for women who were graduates of Dalton Female College. The club name is derived from Greek & means "a meeting of the literary-minded." Today's Lesche members study a wide variety of subjects.

Here's question 15: What famous Texas political dynasty has roots in Murray County?

MYSTERY TREES RESEARCH CONTINUES

Don Wells, who presented the July 2014 program on Cherokee mystery trees, is continuing his research. Interested persons may keep informed online at www.mysterytrees.org & through Facebook at www.facebook.com/mysterytrees.

KIRKMAN DONATES PROPERTY

Lowell Kirkman has donated land adjacent to the Archives & Hamilton House property to the Historical Society. The land is located between the creek & Chattanooga Avenue joining the Hamilton House & archives properties.

Thank you, Mr. Kirkman!

Thanks also to Joe Keith of Keith Appraisal Service for doing the appraisal at a reduced fee and to attorney Jennifer Baxter for handling the legal work as a donation to the WMHS. We appreciate trustees Carlton McDaniel & Bruce Davies, as well as president Tim Howard, for their work in the acquisition process.

RICHARDS & PANKEY COMPLETE PRESERVATION EAGLE PROJECTS

Eagle Scout candidates Will Richards & Samuel Pankey have completed their required projects in the area of local history. Will built benches & cleared a walking trail from God's Acre, the Moravian Cemetery, to the old D & A Railroad bed on the latest property acquired by the Vann House. Samuel repaired & cleaned markers in the oldest part of Spring Place Cemetery.

WMHS appreciates these important contributions to area historic preservation!

DAR NAT'L DAY OF SERVICE BENEFITS ARCHIVES

The Robert Loughridge chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) recently celebrated the NSDAR Day of Service by working at the archives during October. Members selected from a list of jobs to find a volunteer opportunity.

Thank you, DAR ladies!



Mary Ryman & Mary Hardin recently operated the WMHS booth at the Prater's Mill Country Fair. Other booth volunteers were Carole Adams, Rebel & Susan Burton, Flora & Kelly Caldwell, Ann Clarke, Sherrian Hall, Margaret Herrin, Joanne & Marvin Lewis, & Jackie O'Neal.

ARE YOU AN AMAZON CUSTOMER?
Order through amazonmile.com, & designate your order to benefit the Whitfield-Murray Historical Society!

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

- *City of Chatsworth Water Works - Chatsworth, GA
- *Wayne McDaniel - Dalton, GA
- *William Dewayne Patterson - Chatsworth, GA
- *Steven Brotherton - Chatsworth, GA
- *Tate O'Gwin Family - Dalton, GA

BLUNT HOUSE SHEDS SEVERAL THOUSAND POUNDS

It is never too late to shed a few pounds. The 167-year-old Blunt House has lost several thousand pounds due to the expertise of Leonard Brothers Construction of Chatsworth.

The handmade bricks & old mortar of two of the chimneys were disintegrating. The south chimney was sinking from the second floor into the room below. Fingers could easily push through the crumbling mortar. This chimney was removed from the very top down to the first-floor ceiling. The north chimney, which was in better shape, was removed to just below the roof.

Removal of the chimneys, the addition of structural support and two new ceilings necessitates the renovation of the two south bedrooms. The 1988 roof will be replaced by KG&C Roofing.

The house will be closed for a few months but hopefully the old place will now be stable for many years.

RECENT DONATIONS

In memory

- Tim Howard donated to the General Fund in memory of Walter Whittle.
- Ellen Thompson donated to the general fund in memory of Jean Howard German.

To the general fund

- Wayne McDaniel → Bruce Davies
- Nancy & Jim Bland → Ellen Thompson

To the old Spring Place Methodist Church:

- Marcia Kendrick
- Karen Barton of Bristol, VA gave copies of historic photographs from the Brindle, Blankenship, & McCurdy families .

To the archives

- The Northwest Georgia Community Foundation donation through a matching grant enabled the archives to install a mini-split system in the records room.
- Carol Sutton Lumpkin donated 1938 & 1939 Dalton High photos + a letter & card sent to her father, Homer Sutton, who was DHS coach.
- From Charlene Presley Lawless's estate: Uniforms & records from the Dalton Civil Defense nurses of the late 1950s & early 1960s; pictures from the Economy Department Store in 1968; a Dalton High cheerleading uniform from the 1940s.
- Mary Breeding donated genealogy materials for Branham & Willis family files.
- Frenette Cooper Brown donated family files & photos of the Cooper, Cox, Peden, Wilson, Brown, Bevil, Mitchell, & Tucker families.
- Penny Carpenter donated new accounting software.



CONTACT US

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Physical address: 715 Chattanooga Ave.
 Open Tues.-Fri., 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 Sat., 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

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WMHS takes items year-round for our rummage & Christmas sales. We provide tax-donation letters. Need pickup? Just call us.

- Dot McCrory donated photo of 1935 Mt. Rachel Baptist Church baptism in Mill Creek.
- Conway Gregory donated framed prints, maps, books, journals, & manuscript: *History of Murray County*.
- Ellen Thompson donated a Cabin Crafts rug.

To the Wright Hotel

→ Mrs. Ruth Young donated a cotton scale & corn sheller from the Coleman Osborn General Store. The store was located in the Center Hill community of Murray County on what is now called Berry Bennett Rd. Operating for most of the 1920s, it was the only such business for several miles in pretty much every direction.

Mr. Osborn was an entrepreneur who did more than just sell grocery items to his customers. He bought cotton from the several small farmers in the area as well as providing a "commercial" corn sheller for their use, charging them a small fee for the service—or more often receiving a portion of the shelled product in exchange.

In August of 1927, Mr. Osborn was murdered inside the small building. Prior to the murder, his wife, Sadie, helped in the store, too. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Osborn's brother, Mr. John Hawkins, helped her with the various operations on the farm and around the store. Eventually he became the owner of cotton scales and a corn sheller from the Osborn Store. After his death in 1968, the family preserved the items. His daughter, Mrs. Ruth Young, donated the items to WMHS.

We recycle printer ink cartridges.