



# THE PEACOCK QUILL



Whitfield-Murray Historical Society

SEPTEMBER 2016

## CALENDAR

### SECOND SATURDAYS

Sat., Sept. 10, 2016, Noon-5:00  
Wright Hotel & Chatsworth Depot

Followed by the final

### Homegrown Music of 2016

Tiffany Beavers & the Sweet  
Magnolias, 5:00 at the Depot

### FUNDRAISER/FLEA MARKET

Sat., Sept. 17, 2016, 8:00-1:00  
Old Spring Place Methodist Church

### SEPTEMBER MEETING

Sun., Sept. 18, 2016, 2:30

Historic Photos of  
the Whitfield County Schools  
At the archives

### CHRISTMAS SALE

Fri., Oct. 28, 2016, 10:00-4:00  
Sat., Oct. 29, 2016, 10:00-noon  
At the archives

### NOVEMBER MEETING

Sun., Nov. 13, 2016, 2:20

WMHS 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Archives & Hamilton House

## HELP WMHS CELEBRATE #40!

WMHS will celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our reactivation on Sun., Nov. 13. You can help us by sharing photos of WMHS activities through the years. We can **SCAN & RETURN** your photos quickly! Of course, you may also email us any photos you already have scanned.

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**IF ANYONE HAS A PHOTO OF THE PRATER HOUSE MADE IN THE EARLY 1900s, PLEASE EMAIL US AT WMHS@OPTILINK.US!!**



Mount Vernon School, circa 1908-10

## HISTORIC SCHOOL PHOTOS FOCUS OF SEPT. PROGRAM

Vintage photographs of the Whitfield County schools are the subject of the Sept. program on Sun., Sept. 18 at 2:30 p.m. at the archives. Retired educator Ellen Thompson will discuss her book, *Historic Photographs of the Whitfield County Schools*, that culminates 30 years of research. Copies of the book will be on sale. Out-of-town orders will be taken by emailing [wmhs@optilink.us](mailto:wmhs@optilink.us) or by calling 706-278-0217.

### CHANGE IN OFFICE HOURS

Regular office hours at the archives are 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday; and on weekends by appointment.

### PROPERTIES OPEN FOR FRIDAY TOURS

The Blunt House, the Hamilton House, & the Huff House are open Fridays, 10:00-4:00.

The Hamilton House is also open Saturdays, 10:00-4:00.

### VISIT ARCHIVES TO SEE UPGRADES

Recent upgrades at the archives include new displays of Dalton businesses & Pete Sims's artwork; the Tut McFarland library featuring local, county, & regional history & school yearbooks; the Marcelle Coker White genealogy research room; upgraded storage in the records room; a new floor in the workroom; paint & carpet in the stairwell. Come visit!

## CHATSWORTH DEPOT PLANS REPAIRS

Preservation of the Chatsworth Depot began 25 years ago. Today, the Depot is again a busy place. Over 800 people visited in the last year, including the annual Polar Express for kids at Christmas, the free Homegrown Music concerts held this summer, group tours, & a couple of private events. Our collection of historic memorabilia has expanded, & displays have been revamped. One thing is certain: kids and adults alike still love trains!

Kind, faithful donors have come forward to finance the repair & repainting of the caboose as soon as weather permits. Landscaping has been completed. However, the exterior of the depot needs some attention right away! The platform needs immediate repairs while the trim & walls desperately need a new coat of L & N paint. We ask all WMHS supporters to consider a donation at this time to meet these preservation needs.

Donors contributing \$100 or more will have their names engraved on a train plaque in the Depot. All gifts are tax-deductible & can be sent to WMHS at 807 Murray Dr., Chatsworth, GA 30705. Your donation will allow us to continue to tell the story of Chatsworth, railroads, & the talc industry in Chatsworth's oldest building—the only Depot remaining in Murray County.



**CAN YOU IDENTIFY THESE DUANE CHAIR CO. EMPLOYEES SHOWING OFF THEIR NEW WATER COOLER IN THE 1930s?**



**Murray on my Mind campers decipher a tombstone inscription.**

## **HISTORY CAMP WAS BIG SUCCESS!**

Murray on my Mind, Jr. got underway on Tues., July 26 at the old Spring Place Methodist Church. We began with six students, plus Tim & assistant Andrew Bowen, a teacher at Murray County High. The day was spent in Spring Place, the oldest town in the county. The group visited the springs which give the town its name & the site of the Moravian Mission--the first area to be named Springplace. The group also learned that while in the beginning it was spelled as one word, ever since Spring Place was designated the county seat for Murray County, the correct spelling has been as two words!

Other visits the first day were to God's Acre where Charles Hicks, principal chief of the Cherokee Nation, is buried; Treadwell Cemetery, where a couple of unusual grave markers captured attention; & to the Spring Place Cemetery where the group visited the grave of Murray County's Unknown Soldier as well as other interesting interments. The rest of the day was spent at the Vann House where the students enjoyed a Cherokee stickball competition & other hands-on demonstrations.

On Wednesday, the group (whose enrollment had increased) traveled around the county & learned about Murray County's connection to the Kennedy Assassination, a 1920s murder that put Murray County in the national news, toured Eton, & had an extended visit to the old Cisco School, one of the

last two-room school buildings left in Murray County. Dr. Becky Whaley told what school was like "back in the day," read them a poem, & taught them songs that she had sung when a student at Cisco.

The last day of class was spent in Chatsworth where train "conductor" Ted Yarbrough led the group through the old Depot--Chatsworth's oldest building. Jan McNeill & C.L. Dunn gave a tour of the Wright Hotel, & court clerk Donna Flood hosted a visit to the Murray County Courthouse & Probate Court (Old Jail). The group also enjoyed homemade ice cream compliments of Mike & Linda LaChapelle, new WMHS members.

Thanks to all who helped with the camp & to NGEMC for a grant that offset costs of the camp.



**Whitfield campers visited Dug Gap Battle Park.**

## **CAMP HERITAGE EXPLORES WHITFIELD COUNTY**

The campers began their first day at the archives and traveled by bus to the Blunt House where they were greeted by Joanne Lewis, Sherrian Hall, & Jean Manly. The campers were divided into three groups & went on a scavenger hunt throughout the house. Marvin Lewis helped with activities. Mr. Blunt, portrayed by Todd Callaway, talked with the campers about early Dalton.

Campers next stop was the Huff House on Selvidge St. where they enjoyed a picnic lunch on the grounds. Conductor Bill Bowen greeted the campers in the train room with an emphasis on the Great Locomotive Chase. Marvin Sowder gave the campers some of the beginning history of the Huff House & some of its secrets. Gen. Joseph E. Johnson, portrayed by Bob Jenkins, shared Civil War information. Mary Hardin & Marvin

Sowder talked about the spirits of the house. Paula S. Hall shared information about the Huff family. The campers returned to the archives for an evaluation session. Vallarie Pratt, executive director, traveled with the campers each day.

On day two the campers loaded the bus & left the Archives for a driving tour of a few Civil War sites in Dalton. They traveled to Dug Gap Mountain Park where Marvin Sowder was the guide. After lunch the group went to West Hill Cemetery to tour the Confederate Cemetery & other special sites. Campers returned to the Archives to cool off & evaluate their day. Vallarie Pratt guided the campers through the evaluation.

Day three began with an outside tour of the archives. Judy Alderman discussed a sculpture by Pete Sims. Marvin Sowder talked about the spring & Red Bird. The campers then participated in a scavenger hunt in the archives with Pratt & Austin Fariss. Campers then walked to the Hamilton House & were greeted by Bruce Davies who shared the history of the house. Jerry Trollinger talked to the campers about the Civil War items on display. Randy Beckler shared information about early tufting & chenille industry. Marvin Sowder led the students to explore the carriage house & Hamilton cemetery. After lunch Virgelia Meek talked with the campers about George Washington & the George Washington brooch. Nellena Smith, camp coordinator, talked with the campers about genealogy. Some of the campers had brought their families' genealogy to share. Several campers are interested in a genealogy workshop. The campers gave some excellent suggestions for the camp for 2017.

Each camper received a notebook with historical information about the sites they visited & a certificate of participation. The WMHS wishes to thank the North Georgia Electrical Membership Cooperation for the Roundup Grant that helped with the expenses of offering this program for the campers.

**EMAIL [wmhs@optilink.us](mailto:wmhs@optilink.us)  
If you'd prefer to receive your  
newsletter electronically.**

## RECENT DONATIONS

If you need tax donation letters for your contributions, be sure to fill out the appropriate WMHS form & retain a copy.

### To the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund

- \* The Jack & Aggie Bandy Foundation in memory of Mrs. Dicksie Bradley Bandy.
- \* Tim Howard
- \* Brooks & Glenda Rizer
- \* Frances "Bitsy" McFarland
- \* Bobby & Betty Mosteller
- \* Kelly & Flora Caldwell in honor of Mrs. Rowena Martin
- \* Robert & Sue Crawford
- \* Dalton Print Shop
- \* Randy Beckler
- \* James & Betty Ann Chamblee
- \* Norris & Billie Little
- \* Ellen Thompson in memory of Webby Coffey
- \* Mary Campbell
- \* Charles & Sarah Maret
- \* Patty Spanjer in honor of Tut McFarland

### To the General Fund

- \* Danny Harkelroad
- \* Ellen Thompson
- \* Marilyn Arthur family in memory of Annie Ruth Gazaway

### To the Hamilton House

- \* Bruce Davies
- \* Gayle Gazaway donated a chenille spread.

### To the Chatsworth Depot

- \* Thanks to Bobby Mosteller, Carlton McDaniel, Ralph Ausmus, Herman McDaniel, Tyson Haynes, & Frank Adams (committee chair) for donations to restore & repaint the exterior of the caboose. The work will begin as soon as the weather cools just a little!
- \* A special thank you to Ted Yarbrough, vice-chair of the depot committee, & the core of faithful volunteers who have cleaned & hosted the Second Saturday tours & concerts at the Depot this summer. These events have brought lots of attention to the depot, educated lots of folks about the depot & its museum, & also raised a little money for the project.
- \* Additional funding is desperately needed for repairs to the depot itself.
- \* Thanks to Steve & Alice Chapman-Newgen and Henry & Clarice Giddens for donating a piece of historic train rail

found on their property. The best guess is that the narrow gauge rail was used in either the lumber company or the talc mines of Chatsworth around a century ago.

### To the Wright Hotel

- \* Two Hampton family diplomas from Chatsworth High School by Karen Croy.
- \* Historical notes compiled by R.E. Chambers in the 1920s and '30s from Laura Greeson.
- \* Thanks to the committee members & other WMHS volunteers who got the Hotel ready for the summer tours & who have been working as hosts/hostesses for our Second Saturday openings which conclude on Sept. 10, 12-5 p.m. The last regular opening for the Hotel will be during the Black Bear Festival on Oct. 15-16. Of course, the hotel is available for rent throughout the year. Receptions, showers, reunions, & even a wedding are already scheduled for the next few months.
- \* Thanks to Susan & Don Ritchie for donating a wonderful Victorian secretary for the front room of the Hotel.
- \* The Wilbanks family & Kay Moreland Hargrett donated archival materials.

### To old Spring Place Methodist Church

- \* A tremendous thank you to the Baptist Builders of the Murray County/North Georgia Baptist Associations for donating labor to construct a handicap ramp, porch, & steps. Harold Baynes coordinated the effort with a fabulous work crew. Thanks to the Spring Place Historic Township for furnishing the materials.
- \* Thanks to all who helped make the 19th Spring Place Community Festival another success. The principal fundraiser for the church, the event again brought in enough money to operate this property for another year! The Spring Place Ruritan Club cosponsors the event and also provides volunteers to help the Church Preservation Committee of the WMHS maintain the building.
- \* Thanks to Mrs. Marjorie Tankersley for donating her father, Mr. Earl Henderson's Indian artifact collection. Collected locally, the artifacts were displayed for the first time at the Spring Place Festival & will be at the Vann



**Daughters Marjorie & Rachel show their father Mr. Earl Henderson's Indian artifacts collection.**

- House for regular exhibition there.
- \* Thanks to Carey Mitchell for donating an original 1841 deed to William P. Chester for property in Spring Place.
- \* Others who have donated archival material to the Old Church collection recently include Trudy Swilling, Barbara Byers, Kay Moreland Hargrett, Melanie Barton, Sheila Brown, & the Wilbanks family.
- \* Kathy Bennett made a monetary donation.
- \* Jim Wilbanks donated a new U.S. flag for the Old Church.

### To Crown Gardens and Archives

- \* Freida Boyles donated Jackson family files.
- \* Louise Smith donated a 1936-37 WPA marker.
- \* The McDaniel Family Foundation donated a new office computer.
- \* Mr. & Mrs. Haynes Townsend donated a Crown Mill lady's chair & framed original 1893 Murray map.
- \* Mary Jean Dykes donated her WMHS memorabilia.
- \* Randy Beckler donated hardwood flooring for the archives.
- \* Allstar Flooring donated installation of hardwood flooring.

### To the Huff House

- \* Fred Avett--Large picture of cello & child.
- \* Nancy & Steve Williams--Linens, china, & crystal candleholders.
- \* Patricia & William Edwards--China plates, china bowl, glass trays, crystal brandy snifters.
- \* Judy & Wayne Alderman--Duane Chair Company chair & monetary donation.
- \* Ellen Thompson--Monetary donation.
- \* Jack Bandy--50 new chairs.
- \* Milton & Mary Ryman--new tables.

### **To Huff House** (continued)

\* Frank and Carol Percy--1939 framed picture of the Duane Chair factory employees.

\* Miss Margie's portrait is now hanging in the parlor at the Huff House and is cleaned and restored thanks to the efforts of Patricia & William Edwards. Patricia raised most of the funds needed to restore the portrait by sending a letter to alumnae who were schooled by Miss Margie. Contributors included Willa Dendy Goodroe; W.F. Wilbanks; James & Phyllis White; Doug & Margie Kinsey; Hayden Wages; Carolyn Bryant Godfrey; Patsy Burns; Jim Jolly, Carolyn Hawkins, Flora & Kelly Caldwell; Mr. & Mrs. William Cavender; Gene Pendley; David & Gail Eason; Judy Love Joyce; Annelle Scott; Robert Dennard, Sr.; Mary Jane Mohr; Hoyt & Sue Bartenfeld; the Paul Bradley family; Willena F. Wilbanks; Gene Pendley; the Jones girls: Fran, Henny, & Laurie; Melva & Pete Purvis; Brenda Patterson; & numerous cash donations from the community.

\* Thanks to Gary Johnson for repairing the ramp; it was painted by Bucky McCamy, Bill Bowen, Elizabeth Avett, & Woody Glenn. Marvin Sowder improved the back hallway. Work on the stairs has begun thanks to funds received from the bridge & Mah Jong benefit.

### **To Scholarship Fund**

- \* Jim & Rhonda Wilbanks
- \* Bruce & Marcia Kendrick
- \* Judy & Wayne Alderman
- \* Mr. & Mrs. Nathaniel Hansford
- \* Carolyn Martin
- \* Paul & Glenda Houston
- \* Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Edwards
- \* Lisa Stafford
- \* K. W. Gong

### **WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!**

- \* Amy Wells, Dalton, GA
- \* Mike & Linda LaChapelle, Chatsworth, GA
- \* Bonnie Williams, Chatsworth, GA
- \* Chris Hood, Louisville, KY
- \* Laurette Davis, Chatsworth, GA
- \* Drew Hester, Chatsworth, GA
- \* Linda Prock, Athens, TN
- \* William C. Sams, Dalton, GA
- \* Ralph Stafford, Dalton, GA



### **HISTORICAL QUESTION #20**

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](http://www.whitfield-murrayhistoricalsociety.org).

The 19th question appeared in the July newsletter: *What were the mascot and colors of the Chatsworth High School?* ANSWER: The Chiefs and green and white--that's why Murray High became the Indians with green and white as their colors still! Chatsworth High was consolidated with Lucy Hill and Eton High Schools to make MCHS in 1934.

Here's question 20: What famous Georgian was born in Dalton & went on to become a successful Atlanta businessman & civic leader & who also donated Fort Mountain for a State Park? (He also helped save the Vann House in the 1950s.)

### **DENNIS MILL & COURTHOUSE ARCHIVES ARE PROJECTS**

WMHS member Marcia Kendrick continues to work on the National Register nomination for the Dennis Mill area near Ramhurst as new owners Rick & Angie Hix continue their efforts to fund & preserve the mill.

Other WMHS folks are also assisting Murray County Clerk of Court with a courthouse archives project as well as a celebration to commemorate the Centennial of the Murray County Courthouse in Chatsworth. That event is scheduled for Sun., Feb. 12, 2017.

**ARE YOU AN AMAZON CUSTOMER?**  
**Order through [amazon.com](http://amazon.com), & designate your order to benefit the Whitfield-Murray Historical Society!**

*Sympathy to . . .*

\*The family & friends of Ruth Ann Loughridge Pannell.

\* Chuck Smith & family in the death of his mother, Lillie Walls Smith.

### **Fundraiser/Flea Market at Old Spring Place Church**

A fundraiser/flea market is set for Sat., Sept. 17, 8:00-1:00 at the Old Spring Place Methodist Church, a property of the Whitfield-Murray Historical Society. All proceeds will go to the continued preservation of the old church, built in 1875. It is the oldest building in Murray County today that was designed for public use.

The main room of the restored structure will be devoted to a flea market that has lots of tapes & records, many collectibles, glassware, linens, household items, Christmas decorations, & toys. Also available are a large number of Georgia Bulldogs souvenir items!

The fundraising event also features a used book sale that includes lots of paperbacks, children's books, & hardback fiction at really good prices--paperbacks are 5 for \$1 while hardbacks are \$1 EACH. Various historical society publications will also be available for purchase & include postcards, books, DVDs, notecards, maps, & prints.

The Old Church is also available for use as venue for club meetings, showers, birthday events, reunions, & other gatherings. Rental fees, reservations, & other information can be obtained by calling 706-695-2740 or checking out the site's Facebook page.

### **CONTACT US**

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[www.whitfield-murrayhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.whitfield-murrayhistoricalsociety.org)

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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