



Summer 2023

# HISTORY MATTERS

Summer 2023

## Message from the President.....

It has been a privilege to serve as President of the Alpharetta & Old Milton County Historical Society for the last two years. I want to highlight some of our accomplishments during this time and acknowledge some individuals for their exceptional contributions.

### 2023-2024 Board of Directors

First, congratulations to the new Board of Directors for 2023-2024 (see list of the new Board members following this message.)



*Ed Malowney*

### Log Cabin

The Grand Re-opening of the MHS Future Farmers of America Log Cabin was delayed several times due to COVID. It was an historic milestone on October 16, 2021 when the local communities turned out to celebrate the official Grand Re-opening. Special recognition goes to **Jack Morton, Jim Spruell, and Tracey Ward** for taking on the monumental project of relocating the cabin and adding a kitchen, two bathrooms, and a basement which now serves as our Archives research area and library.

The cost of the FFA Log Cabin relocation and additions was approximately \$370,000. The **City of Alpharetta** donated \$50,000 and the **Alpharetta Convention and Visitors Bureau** donated \$15,000. Approximately \$120,000 was donated by individuals and organizations via a special fundraising campaign. The balance of the cost, \$185,000, depleted the **AOMCHS** reserve. We are forever grateful to **Jim Spuell** for providing AOMCHS a low-interest \$40,000 loan which has since been paid off. Presently our net income is a positive \$30,000.

In February, **Jim Williams**, Executive Director and **Jason Martin**, Development Director with the National FFA Foundation, visited the Log Cabin and were very pleased to learn more about the history of the FFA Log Cabin. **They believe that the Log Cabin is the oldest FFA structure in the United States.**

The FFA Log Cabin is being used to host AOMCHS Board of Director and Membership meetings, Milton High School class and family reunions, Bible studies, a venue for Act 1 Theatre rehearsals, and for the third year, summer camps for kids.

A special thank you goes to Alpharetta Cultural Services Manager **Kim Manning** and Director of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Services **Morgan Rodgers** for providing \$4,700 to provide external lighting for the Log Cabin parking area.

## Archives

The Archives has been our priority for the last 18 months. We now have a secure Archives storage area which has temperature and humidity control.

**Stephanie Andersson** and the Archives volunteers are doing a stellar job of organizing and inventorying the family and subject matter files and documenting the files in our Past Perfect system. Stephanie inventoried AOMCHS library books and donated books that were not directly relevant to our research to Kennesaw State University. Rare books gifted to Kennesaw State University's Bentley Rare Book Museum will be on exhibit in October of this year.

**Sheila Rucker Pennebaker** spent almost a year organizing the Celestine Sibley newspaper clippings in chronological order, creating indexes for archival folders which house many inter-related clippings. 1,694 individual articles!

**Kim Woods** has done an outstanding job of researching and documenting the Rainwater family. Her research serves as a model for family research. **Delaney Drepaul** has organized and labelled research binders gifted by Ed Malowney.

**Kim Roddy** is developing a color-coded system of finding aids/indexing, cross reference binders, and vertical file collections. **Stephanie Andersson** inventoried the library bookshelves, rare pamphlets, and rare books and updated valuations for insurance.

**Stephanie Holt** is organizing, digitizing, and accessioning the George Paulk collection of photographs and negatives gifted by his daughter Crystal Paulk-Buchanan. George Paulk was a long-time faculty member at Milton High School and was the school's photographer.

We are forever grateful to **Bob Meyers** for writing weekly articles of area history. He is a regular researcher utilizing the AOMCHS archives.

The Archives Committee is developing a plan to display artifacts in the Archives.

Recently, **Linda Mansell Martin** agreed to house the Dorris Store Ledgers and other family history at the Archives. **Hazel Gerber** gifted the Archives with a copy of her work on a house history for St. Aidan's Episcopal Church pertaining to Gold Land Lot 905. Author **Trish Hill**, a regular Archives visitor, is researching and writing an Arcadia Book on the history of Mountain Park.

We expect to receive the **Caroline Dillman papers** to add to our collection. Former area resident **Tom Fowler** is providing AOMCHS copies of Civil War letters written by a family ancestor.

We recently acquired parts of the **old Rogers Bridge** that we plan to display at the Archives.

The **City of Alpharetta** has provided the Archives \$1,500 for a secure internet connection and support. The City provided another \$1,500 for a research kiosk at the Alpharetta City Hall History Room. And the City pays \$650 for our annual Past Perfect subscription.

## Memorandum of Understanding

We will sign a 10-Year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Alpharetta covering the Mansell House and the FFA Log Cabin and Archives. Whereas the City owns both properties, AOMCHS manages and earns rental income for Society programs and projects from the use of both properties. Income from both the Mansell House and the Log Cabin is the second largest source of AOMCHS income, next to income from our rental house properties.

### Membership/Hospitality

Special recognition goes to **Mary Lee** who most recently served as Membership Chair. We added 43 new members. Mary Lee has served as Society President, host at the Mansell House, Log cabin fundraiser, and in many other areas and has been instrumental in many of the AOMCHS successes. Thank you! Many thanks also go to **Cathy Bills** for serving as Membership Chair and most recently as Hospitality Chair.

### Meetings/Presentations

We held our regular third Thursday of the month membership meetings/presentations at both the FFA Log Cabin and Mansell House and scheduled four field trips to **Autrey Mill Nature Preserve and Nature Center, Kennesaw Battlefield and Southern Train Museum, the new Roswell History Room, Cherokee County History Center and Riverview Cemetery**. Presentations included 15 members sharing personal items or speaking about an historical topic; a couple of Civil War talks; and a one-act soliloquy from President Abraham Lincoln's personal secretary. And all attendees loved the presentation on the "birds and the bees!" **Thanks to all the presenters.**

In September, we will be co-hosting a City of Alpharetta **Candidate Forum** for the Mayor and Council elections.

### Historical Markers/Oral Histories

Plans call for a **refresh of the Silos markers** and a **video of the Bailey Johnson School** in December 2023. Again, thanks to Kim Manning and the City for underwriting these projects. Plans call for two more oral histories in the next year. Suggestions are welcomed!

Preservation Committee member **Shack Lewis** is developing an up-to-date list of historical properties plus criteria and recommendations for the City of Alpharetta Preservation Committee.

### Cemeteries/Wreaths Across America

A special acknowledgement goes to Cemetery Chairperson **Pat Miller** for her interest in area cemeteries. Pat maintains a personal genealogical collection in the thousands, most of whom she is related. She has taken a personal interest in cleaning gravestones and getting others involved also. She was instrumental in getting the **City of Alpharetta to repair the wall around the Susan Camp grave at Resthaven Cemetery.**

**Pat Miller**, Cemetery Chair, and **Jennifer Boren**, new Hospitality Chair and former Regent of the Patriots of Liberty Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution, led a north Fulton County initiative to expand the Wreaths Across America program in Alpharetta, Johns Creek, and the City of Milton. Wreaths were placed at Resthaven, Pineview, Old Big Creek, Big Creek Primitive Baptist, Macedonia, Rogers-Bell, Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Clear Springs Baptist Church, and the Phillips cemeteries.

Plans call for a more coordinated and expanded list of sponsors and cemeteries in the future.

### Mansell House

Once we relocated the archives from the Mansell House to the lower level of the Log Cabin, we converted the Archives Room at the Mansell House to a Bride's Room. The new **Bride's Room** is a welcomed enhancement and will help market the Mansell House as a bridal venue. The City will be repairing and painting windows and doing some paint touch-ups this summer. Plans call for major repainting of the exterior in FY 2024.

Special thanks to **Jeannie Goodwin** for her many years serving as hostess at the Mansell House. She advised the Board of Directors that she is retiring at the end of this year.

### Quarterly Newsletter

The “**History Matters**” newsletter represents the hard work of the Board of Directors and the Committee Chairpersons. After each publication, I get several calls and e-mails from the readers expressing their interest and appreciation. Thank you to **Board Secretary Jackie Angel** for designing and editing the newsletter.

### Long Term Financial Health and Outlook

Financially, AOMCHS is now in excellent shape. We have implemented a plan to increase rental income over the next few years on our Mayfield Road rental properties. Member **Cindy Hogan** will donate her home (**the Troy Rucker House**) to AOMCHS in the future, providing a third stream of rental income to AOMCHS. With the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with the City, we will be saving \$200.00 each month on utilities. We are currently evaluating insurance coverage. We are intentionally maintaining annual dues at a nominal charge to encourage more members to join. I encourage each member to recruit a new member.

We will be developing a more strategic approach by establishing an annual operating budget, through project planning, and creating a long-term capital building maintenance plan. This approach should facilitate moving ideas, projects, and programs to tangible results by developing budgets and affixing responsibilities.

We need to discuss and establish a minimum monetary reserve and discuss how we will support/fund future historical initiatives.

Over the last two years, we have accomplished a lot but there is always work to do. Think about how you can contribute in the coming year!

*~Ed Malowney  
AOMCHS President*

## 2023-2024 Officers and Board Sworn In

On June 12<sup>th</sup>, the Historical Society closed out its spring season with the annual Officer Installation luncheon. Members brought their best potluck dishes to share and gathered at the Mansell House to congratulate the Society's newly elected officers and board members. Alpharetta City Councilman John Hipes administered the oath of office, then he and his wife Karen joined us for lunch.

This year's officers and board members whose terms begin on July 1<sup>st</sup> are:

**President:** Pat Miller

**Vice President:** Shack Lewis

**Secretary:** Jackie Angel

**Treasurer:** Jim Spruell

**Trustees:** Kim Manning, Janice Talluto

**President Emeritus:** Ed Malowney

**Archives:** Stephanie Andersson

**Historian:** Connie Mashburn

**Historic Preservation:** Bonnie Steadman

**Hospitality:** Jennifer Boren

**Mansell House:** Jeannie Goodwin

**Membership:** Kimberly Roddy

**Programs:** Lynn Sickeler

We would like to say a special thanks to Mary Lee and Cathy Bills for their many years of service. Both decided not to seek reelection but will always remain valued members of our Historical Society family.

Another very special member, Jeannie Goodwin, who for many years has managed and cared for the Mansell House, announced that she will be retiring on December 31<sup>st</sup>. She will be a difficult person to replace, so we are beginning our search early. If you or anyone you know would be interested in the position, please contact Pat Miller via email at [ptatummiller@gmail.com](mailto:ptatummiller@gmail.com).

~Pat Miller



*Pictured left to right: Bonnie Steadman, Jennifer Boren, Janice Talluto, Pat Miller, Kim Roddy, Jim Spruell, Jeannie Goodwin, Alpharetta City Councilman John Hipes*

## Upcoming Programs - 2023

Members and visitors are all invited!

### **August 2023 at the Log Cabin**

Join us as we hear from Bob Meyers sharing historical stories about folks from Alpharetta.

### **September 2023**

Field trip to the Funk Heritage Center in Waleska. We'll have a docent for the museum. The museum is wonderful and tells the story of the early southeastern settlers and the indigenous people that populated this area. Admission cost is \$9/\$8.50 for seniors. Lunch (\$11) will be at the Gordy Dining Hall at the university which covers a variety of choices. More details to be announced at a later date. Stay tuned!

## From Our Past

This excerpt is taken from the September 1990 AOMCHS newsletter *Footprints Through Milton*. It was originally in *The Democrat*, published on May 14, 1889, regarding local mail delivery and post offices.

Ocee was once known as New York, Georgia but it had no post office. Later, when a post office was established there, the government refused to grant it under that name, so it was changed to Ocee. The mail was brought to Alpharetta from Duluth at that time and there were five post offices within twelve miles served by this mail carrier: Duluth, Warsaw, Mazeppa, Tilda, and Alpharetta. Duluth would get their mail every day. The other four would get theirs occasionally, provided the roads were passable and high water did not prevent the carrier from crossing Big Creek and the Chattahoochee.

## Mansell House News

The Society, in conjunction with the Alpharetta Garden Club, held the annual Alpharetta City Recognition Luncheon on Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, at the Mansell House. The luncheon honored city officials and city workers whose contributions help make the Mansell House & Gardens a wonderful destination. The city workers and members of the Historical Society and Garden Club enjoyed delicious food and fellowship!

*~Jeannie Goodwin  
Mansell House Chair*

# Happy Birthday!

### July

7/5: Curtis Boren  
7/14: Bob Price  
7/16: Barbara Latham



### August

8/2: Collin Fluke  
8/7: Ed Malowney  
8/9: Norman Broadwell  
8/10: Daniel Wright  
8/13: Nancy Wright  
8/22: Nina Joy Samples  
8/24: Cathy Bills

### September

9/6: Ben Hollingsworth  
9/6: Sheila Pennebaker  
9/7: Linda Russell  
9/11: Stephanie Andersson  
9/12: Linda Spruell  
9/19: Joy Ross  
9/22: Martine Broadwell  
9/23: Jeff Dufresne  
9/28: Matthew Woods  
9/29: Sandra Hofmann  
9/29: Bill Lusk  
9/30: Jim Spruell

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Sarah Drepaul  
Donna Loudermilk

## From the Historian

### Dr. James L. Morris

The 1910 Federal census shows that James L. Morris was a farmer, age 31, and lived in the Crossville District of Milton County. He was married to Odessa Hembree. Dr. Morris grew up in the Hickory Flat community. His formal schooling ended after fifth grade. While in his 30s, Morris decided to become a medical doctor and he enrolled in medical school. After finishing school, he set up a medical practice in Buena Vista, a small town in South Georgia. Dr. Morris stayed there for 17 years before returning to Milton County in the late 1920s. He built a home on North Main Street and saw patients there. Later, he purchased the large Colonel Brooke home on Academy Street and moved his practice to that location. The doctor dispensed medicine there and many former



patients remember seeing shelves of large amber jugs full of liquid medicines. Quick-witted and always friendly, the doctor enjoyed joking with his visitors. One local man remembers hearing of a farmer who sought treatment for lice. Dr. Morris asked the farmer, "Have you been sleeping with the hogs again?" Most patients left the office with a smile on their faces. Dr. James Morris, a well-liked and highly respected physician, died in 1964 at age 85.

*~Connie Mashburn*



*Dr. James Morris in his medical office*

### **First Baptist Church of Alpharetta**

In 1903, a group of women formed a society to assist in organizing a new Baptist church in Alpharetta. They met weekly for prayer and Bible study and began collecting offerings. The society also raised money by selling cakes and other foods at the courthouse when court was in session. The group earned enough money to purchase a 60 x 100 foot lot and began construction of the First Baptist Church of Alpharetta. The project was completed in 1905.

*~Connie Mashburn*



## **Archives**

### **Sheila Rucker Pennebaker Discovers an Archival Treasure Trove**

Sheila didn't know what she was getting into after looking into an archival storage box of the Celestine Sibley Collection, accession 2001.31, gifted by Leona Bolch. Inside were many Ziplock bags full of newspaper clippings of Sibley's column in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution from 1979 – 1999. There were also several articles of tribute to Sibley after her death on August 15, 1999, and clippings of other authors and AJC notables such as Lewis Grizzard and Jim Minter.

Sheila spent almost a year of her time organizing the newspaper clippings into chronological order and creating indexes for archival folders which would house many interleaved clippings. The result is 1,694 individual articles that are now housed in the Alpharetta & Old Milton County Historical Society archival storage.



A sample of articles on Sweet Apple from the Celestine Sibley Collection:

Date	Title	Subject Matter	Author	Newspaper
3/2/1990	City of Roswell claims Sweet Apple as its own	Sweet Apple	Sibley, Celestine	Atlanta Journal-Constitution
9/18/1991	Country Music has Vanished at Sweet Apple	Sweet Apple	Sibley, Celestine	Atlanta Journal-Constitution
7/19/1992	G-Day arrives at Sweet Apple	Sweet Apple	Sibley, Celestine	Atlanta Journal-Constitution
5/26/1994	Sweet Apple new roof	Sweet Apple	Sibley, Celestine	Atlanta Journal-Constitution
2/13/1995	Sweet Apple repair jobs	Sweet Apple	Sibley, Celestine	Atlanta Journal-Constitution
4/26/1995	Apple varieties	Sweet Apple	Sibley, Celestine	Atlanta Journal-Constitution
8/23/1995	Sweet Apple without old cat	Sweet Apple	Sibley, Celestine	Atlanta Journal-Constitution
10/26/1995	Sweet Apple, not for rent (Olympics)	Sweet Apple	Sibley, Celestine	Atlanta Journal-Constitution
4/18/1996	Little tree recipe for Sweet Apple	Sweet Apple	Sibley, Celestine	Atlanta Journal-Constitution
5/9/1996	New homes fine, nothing beats Sweet Apple	Sweet Apple	Sibley, Celestine	Atlanta Journal-Constitution
5/20/1996	Yard restoration at Sweet Apple	Sweet Apple	Sibley, Celestine	Atlanta Journal-Constitution
2/27/1997	Pine borers upset Sweet Apple status quo	Sweet Apple	Sibley, Celestine	Atlanta Journal-Constitution
9/8/1998	The night the lights went out in Sweet Apple	Sweet Apple	Sibley, Celestine	Atlanta Journal-Constitution
11/25/1998	Personal visit with the history of Sweet Apple	Sweet Apple	Sibley, Celestine	Atlanta Journal-Constitution
12/23/1998	Sweet Apple's like intriguing friend	Sweet Apple	Sibley, Celestine	Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Related materials from the Research Library bookshelves:

- Foskey, Ann. *The Sweet Apple Chronicles*, Grace Ponder McVey, Growing Up on Sweet Apple Road 1932-1949. (Canton, Georgia: Doss Printing Service, 2019).
- Sibley, Celestine. *A Granddaughter's Reminiscence*, Celestine Sibley Flemming. (Athens, Georgia: Hill Street Press LLC, 1999). First printing, signed by the author.
- Sibley, Celestine. *Christmas in Georgia*, Five stories by Celestine Sibley. (Garden City, New York: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1964). First edition, signed by the author.
- Sibley, Celestine. *Mothers Are Always Special*. (Atlanta: Peachtree Publishers, Ltd., 1994). Third printing, illustrations by Scarlett B. Rickenbacker.

- Sibley, Celestine. *The Celestine Sibley Sampler, Writings & Photographs with tributes to the beloved author and journalist.* (Atlanta: Peachtree Publishers, Ltd., 1997)
- Sibley, Celestine. *Turned Funny, A Memoir by Celestine Sibley.* (USA: Harper & Row Publishers, 1988). First edition.

~Stephanie Andersson

## Member Spotlight

### Connie Mashburn

Over forty years ago, Connie became a charter member of the Alpharetta Historical Society (now Alpharetta & Old Milton County Historical Society.) During his tenure, he has served as the Society's president and archivist and has been the Society's historian for the past twelve years.

Connie has played an important role in our local history for many years. In 2006, Connie was chosen by the city of Alpharetta to author a book on local history to celebrate the city's sesquicentennial. In 2015, the city of Alpharetta adopted a historic preservation ordinance and Connie was appointed to serve on the newly created historic preservation commission. In 2016, the city of Alpharetta provided funds to the historical society for interviewing local residents with special emphasis on senior members of the community. Connie was asked to lead the effort and over 80 interviews have been captured. In 2018, Connie became a founding member of the Milton Historical Society where he serves as the group's resident historian.

When the City of Alpharetta began the process of building a local history museum at city hall, Connie was asked to curate the museum. In March of 2018, the grand opening was held at city hall where then Mayor Pro-Tem Donald Mitchell dedicated the museum to Connie, acknowledging his sixty years of experience and dedication to historical preservation in Alpharetta and

designating him as the Official Historian of the City of Alpharetta.

Connie has always been very active in numerous community activities. Connie has given over 100 presentations on local history to North Fulton groups. He was chosen as the Alpharetta Jaycee of the Year. He was a member of Alpharetta's early Planning and Zoning Commission and chosen to serve as the City of Alpharetta's representative on the Georgia House of Representatives Committee on Higher Education in North Fulton. While his children were in school, Connie served as chairperson of the school advisory boards at Alpharetta Elementary, Haynes Bridge Road Middle School, and Milton High School. While volunteering at MHS, Connie served as Milton High's representative on the Fulton County Board of Education Superintendent's Advisory Board.

Connie recently served on the Milton High School 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee as an MHS alum. His great grandfather was a member of the Milton County School Board in the 1920s and his brother, son, and daughter all graduated from MHS. His grandson is currently a student at Milton, a member of the MHS Class of 2025. While at Milton, Connie was a star athlete playing baseball, basketball, and running track. Connie served as captain, and played point guard, on the basketball team which won region championships and advanced to the Class A state championship tournament in consecutive years.

During a two-year period, from 1957 through 1959, Connie was one of the athletes who helped Milton win five region championships of the eight in which they participated. He won 1<sup>st</sup> place medals at the county and region track meets, was chosen twice to play in the Atlanta All-Star Baseball game, and he was also chosen to play in the Georgia High School Athletic Association North Georgia vs. South Georgia High School All Star Baseball Game his senior year. Additionally, he was chosen as the “wittiest” senior, not surprising at all to those who know him!

Long interested in his Scottish heritage, Connie became a member of the St. Andrews Society and a Fellow of Antiquaries of

Scotland. He served three terms as President of Clan Donnachaidh Society of the South, a Scottish heritage organization which covers five southeastern states. Connie was a member of the local Piedmont Chapter of Sons of the Revolution (SAR) and was elected to serve as treasurer of the State of Georgia SAR organization.

After earning a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Georgia State University, Connie was hired as an auditor trainee by Southern Railway (later Norfolk Southern Corp) and after moving up through the ranks, retired after 35 years as Director of Revenue Accounting.



*Pictured left to right: City Councilman Donald Mitchell, Connie Mashburn, Matt Mashburn (Connie's son)*

## Daughters of the American Revolution Recognition



*Pictured: Ed Malowney and Jennifer Boren (DAR)*

On Sunday May 7, 2023, AOMCHS President Ed Malowney was recognized for his Excellence in Community Service by the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. (DAR)

Ed has served as President of the Alpharetta and Old Milton County Historical Society for the last two years. He is a member of the Johns Creek Veterans Association and worked with the City of Johns Creek to update directional signage to promote the “Wall That Heals,” a half-size replica of the Vietnam Wall in Washington D.C. that traveled the United States for ten years and now resides permanently in Newtown Park in Johns Creek. Through the AOMCHS, Ed has been actively involved in promoting the DAR initiative “Wreaths Across America.”

Ed is the second AOMCHS member to be recognized by the DAR. AOMCHS President-elect Pat Miller was similarly recognized in 2022.



The city of Alpharetta Cultural Services Department has a wealth of information about local history. Be sure to check it out!

- Historical Online Tour Story Map of Alpharetta History – take a look at Alpharetta’s History and Historical Markers through an online interactive story map at: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/f37f45610ba94828a4029e81f3e92462>

- Much more Alpharetta history can be found at:  
<https://www.alpharetta.ga.us/government/departments/recreation-parks/cultural-services/alpharetta-history>
- The Cultural Services Department/AOMCHS is looking to add to the Story Map tour and is looking for help gathering any information on the following. Anything that the public has to share would be greatly appreciated. The locations are:
  - Pineview Cemetery
  - The Spence House
  - Old Milton courthouse
  - Any other historical information or photos about any/all of the sites listed on the online tour (see link above) would be greatly appreciated.

If you have information to share, please email [info@aomchs.org](mailto:info@aomchs.org) and share what you have.

- The Cultural Services Department is giving the information area at the Crabapple Silos a much-needed facelift. Any information the community might have in regard to the old farm property or the history of the Silos would be great to add to our research for this project. Please email [info@aomchs.org](mailto:info@aomchs.org) to share info.

## Upcoming Camps at the Log Cabin

Camp registration can be found here: <https://www.alpharetta.ga.us/government/departments/recreation-parks>

### SUMMER UKE FEST! ACOUSTIC JAM BAND CAMP with Metro Music Makers

Jam out with us this summer in the FFA Log Cabin, the perfect setting for an acoustic version of our rock band camp! We'll be rocking out on ukules while campers learn how to collaborate with fun musical styles and rehearse songs as a group and individually. *Students should purchase or bring a ukelele from home prior to camp.*

#### Ages 7 to 12

Cost: \$195 Residents / \$292.50 Non-Residents

Dates:	Days:	Time:	Activity#
Jul 10-14	Mon–Fri	9am – 12pm	29816

## Out and About in Alpharetta

This quarter we will look at the residence of people who were significant in the history of Alpharetta. This simple home at 265 Milton Avenue was the home of two businesspeople who had an important role in developing businesses in Alpharetta. The husband was a longtime businessman in Roswell near the intersection of Houze Way and Highway 9. Although his business was in Roswell, he lived in Alpharetta

with his wife who was very much involved in shaping business here in Alpharetta. She was a longtime resident of Alpharetta where she owned and operated a furniture store in downtown. Known for her sharp mind and keen wit, she promoted and saw business opportunities in areas no one else would and was the eternal optimist. She was a visionary in the re-development and preservation of the downtown area, restoring a group of buildings along Milton Ave. She received numerous awards for her outstanding service and beautification of the business community and for her involvement in the preservation and encouragement of Alpharetta history and architecture. She was a longtime member of the First Baptist Church of Alpharetta and the Downtown Business Association.

In addition, the construction of this house paved the way for other upscale houses along Milton Avenue.

Can you name these influential Alpharetta residents? If so, email your answer to Ben Hollingsworth at [bhollyart@comcast.net](mailto:bhollyart@comcast.net)

*~Ben Hollingsworth*



## Membership Programs Spring Recap

### April 2023

#### **Beekeeping and Egg Candling**

This presentation was what President Ed Malowney referred to as our program on “the birds and the bees.” Long-term AOMCHS member Buck Bailie presented the art and science of beekeeping. Also, Amanda Musilli, Alpharetta Recreation and Parks Community Services Manager, gave a presentation on egg candling. We learned from Amanda that the term “candling” means looking inside an egg to see what’s going on in order to determine the grading of size, shape, shell appearance, color and conditioning, and



quality of the egg. The term candling came about because “back in the day” before electricity, flashlights, etc., eggs were held up to the flame of a candle in order to see through the shell. Even though candles are no longer used for this process, the term remains a part of the industry vocabulary. Part of Amanda’s job with the city is to work at the Alpharetta Farm at Old Rucker Park. Amanda is a certified egg candler and helps raise the farm’s thirty chickens. She also works with a group of agribusiness students from Cambridge High School. The students have a business, “AGaretta,” that sells CSA boxes with fruit, vegetables, and eggs harvested and gathered at the Farm. Some of the farm’s harvest is also donated to North Fulton Community Charities. Amanda’s presentation was very well received and included lots of questions from the audience.

*~Jackie Angel*



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*“Amanda, you’ve been a good egg for doing this.”*

*~Ed Malowney*

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For the second part of the program, Buck Bailie shared his experience as a beekeeper with us. He started the presentation by sending around some local honey for each member to taste. Once our appetites were whetted with the sweet honey, he shared the details of beekeeping by explaining the process of buying (ordering) the bees, tending to them in the hive, the roles of the queen, drones, and worker bees, and extracting the honey. He showed us one of his boxes that houses the bees and, using his tools of the trade, he demonstrated his process. He also modeled the protective covering he wears when working with the bees. It was evident that Buck loves his bees when he passed around a very detailed picture of a bee and said, "Note how beautifully God made her. Those delicate markings on her wings are blood vessels. She has four wings that she can latch together to fly and then detach to move around in the hive. She is amazing!"

*~Jackie Angel*





## May 2023

### **AOMCHS Members Enjoy a Field Trip**

On May 18<sup>th</sup>, members of the Alpharetta and Old Milton County Historical Society traveled to nearby Canton to tour the new History Cherokee Museum. The museum, which opened last November, is housed in a repurposed police headquarters building in the heart of downtown Canton.



*Pictured above: Pat Miller*

The Cherokee County Historical Society closed its doors to the public for two years to prepare for the move to their new headquarters/museum building. The Society, renamed History Cherokee, now houses its archives, museum, business offices, classrooms, and gift shop at its new location. Entrance to the gift shop is free but there is an admission fee for the museum. Group discounts are available.

On display in the new museum are numerous treasures from History Cherokee's extensive collection. There are plant and animal fossils from the area's prehistoric period, artifacts from Cherokee Nation, and displays about the pioneering families who moved into the area after the Cherokee removal in 1838 (the infamous Trail of Tears.) Other displays highlight early businesses, schools, and communities. Of particular interest to Connie Mashburn and me was a wall sized map of the 1832 Cherokee land lottery lots. We were able to locate the property once owned by our common ancestor. According to Connie Mashburn, "the museum deserves a big A+ rating!"

After our museum visit several of us strolled through Riverview Cemetery. Established in 1844, this beautiful historic cemetery overlooks the Etowah River and is the final resting place of many of the area's earliest citizens. We concluded our trip with lunch at Queenies, one of the many new restaurants that have opened in downtown Canton.

*~Pat Miller*



*Pictured above: Connie Mashburn and Ed Malowney*



*Pictured above at the Cherokee Museum: Kimberly Roddy and Lynna Lee*



*Pictured above at the Cherokee Museum: Pat Miller and Ed Malowney*

If you missed this field trip, Programs Chairwoman Lynn Sickeler has several more scheduled for next fall and winter. We hope you can join us for one or more of them. By the way, Lynn is looking for program ideas. She'd appreciate your suggestions.

# MEMBERSHIP DUES

**Reminder:** Membership dues are paid annually and insure you stay on our roster and receive all society communication and news. Dues are used to help with the Society's expenses. Dues are \$20 for a single membership and \$30 for a family membership. Current members who are 80 years old and older are designated as *Lifetime Members* and no longer need to pay a membership renewal fee. Dues can be paid online at <https://form.jotform.com/223174503583151>, in person at our monthly membership meetings by cash or check, or by mailing a check to:

Membership Chair/Kim Roddy  
Mansell House  
1835 Old Milton Parkway  
Alpharetta, GA 30009



*The Alpharetta & Old Milton County Historical Society (AOMCHS) is a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization governed by the State of Georgia. It operates under a Board of Trustees consisting of elected trustees, officers, and standing committee chairpersons. The motto for the Alpharetta & Old Milton County Historical Society is "Preserve the Past, in the Present, for the Future." The Mansell House & Gardens is managed by the Historical Society and is located at 1835 Old Milton Parkway, Alpharetta. It is a special events facility that can be rented as a special place for families to celebrate the important events of life such as Births, Weddings, Graduations, Reunions, Showers, Anniversaries, Birthdays, Christenings, and more. The AOMCHS also manages the MHS FFA Log Cabin on Milton Avenue which also can be rented for events. The Log Cabin houses the Society's archives. For more information on becoming a member of the Alpharetta & Old Milton County Historical Society, please contact: Kim Roddy, Membership Chair, at [kroddy1313@gmail.com](mailto:kroddy1313@gmail.com) or Ben Hollingsworth, Public Relations Chair, at [bhollyart@comcast.net](mailto:bhollyart@comcast.net)*

- Follow us on *Facebook* at the Alpharetta & Old Milton County Historical Society page
- Website: [www.aomchs.org](http://www.aomchs.org)
- Information regarding handicapped parking at the Log Cabin can be found at [https://aomchs.org/current\\_cabin.pdf](https://aomchs.org/current_cabin.pdf)

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