



Fall 2025

# HISTORY MATTERS

Fall 2025

## Message from the President...

Let me be the first to wish you “Happy Halloween.” Oh, I know the stores have been doing that since July, but I think Halloween wishes issued when the outside temperature is still over 90 degrees really don't count.

I love Halloween. Unlike Thanksgiving and Christmas, no one expects me to cook or decorate. All I have to do is go to the grocery store and buy lots of Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, most of which I wind up eating myself.

I have wonderful memories of my childhood Halloweens. The celebration usually began with a trip to Northeast Plaza to buy my costume. The store-bought costumes in those days were pretty awful, but my mother couldn't sew, so I had to make do. Mother was a wiz at crocheting, but even for her, crocheting an entire Halloween costume would have been a challenge.

Next, my sisters and I wore our costumes to the annual Brookhaven Elementary School Halloween Carnival. It was the school's only fundraiser – very primitive by today's standards, but it did feature an actual cotton candy machine.

On Halloween night we Trick or Treated on our street. Today that street is a cul-de-sac. Back then it was a plain old dead-end street. There were only 18 houses on our street, so in years when the weather cooperated, we would also Trick or Treat on another dead-end street that paralleled ours. Those double haul years were the best!

This year I'm going to celebrate by sponsoring a contest at our October meeting. I'm offering a prize for the member who brings the most guests. We need to get our membership numbers up, and I hope this will be a fun way of doing it.

By the way, we still need a membership chair. Please consider volunteering. (I'll give you a bag of your favorite Halloween candy if you do.)

Pat



*~Pat Miller, President*

## Membership

### Upcoming Programs – Fall 2025

#### October 16<sup>th</sup>, 7pm, The Log Cabin

The speaker for our October member meeting/program is military historian Joey Seguin. Mr. Seguin will compare the guns used in the Revolutionary War with those used in the Civil War and explain how the differing characteristics of the weapons strongly influenced how the wars were fought.

#### November – To Be Determined

#### December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2pm, The Log Cabin

Please join us for our annual Holiday luncheon. The Log Cabin will be beautifully decorated for the holidays, the food will be delicious, and the fellowship with old and new friends will be fun!

**SAVE THE DATES AND BE SURE TO JOIN US!**

+++++

# Happy Birthday!

#### October

10/2 Cindy Hogan  
10/3 Bob Meyers  
10/4 Mary Ellen Merriam  
10/5 Lynn Sickeler  
10/9 Donna Loudermilk  
10/10 Douglas Ross  
10/11 Evan Duffy  
10/16 Tim Worley  
10/22 Janice Cronan  
10/25 Margaret Cadwell  
10/30 Connie Mashburn

#### November

11/10 Jackie Angel  
11/10 Pat Miller  
11/17 Dick Freeman  
11/20 Joan Compton  
11/22 Travis Marks  
11/24 Charlie Reavis  
11/29 Fredrik Andersson

#### December

12/7 Carolyn Fouts



## Welcome New Members

Mallard Benton  
Diane Pope

We love new members! Invite your friends, neighbors, and co-workers to join. A membership form can be found at [www.aomchs.org](http://www.aomchs.org)

## *Out and About in Alpharetta* with Ben Hollingsworth

I'm on the Board for Arts Alpharetta, a non-profit group who is an agent for the City of Alpharetta. We arrange exhibitions at the Arts Center, provide art supplies for underserved students, curate public artworks, and other things related to the Arts. Recently, a couple of our Board members were at the Farmers Market talking to visitors about art programs offered at the Arts Center and found that almost none of them had been to the Arts Center, much less knew where it was. So, for this quarter's newsletter, I want to send you on a search for a site that many of you probably don't know about.



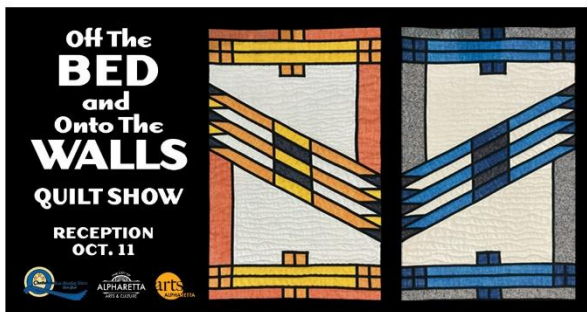
Can someone tell me where there is a **Serenity Garden** at North Park?  
It is a good-sized park and the Serenity Garden is fairly small and not well marked.  
Send me the location and you are a winner!

Send your answer to Ben at [bhollyart@comcast.net](mailto:bhollyart@comcast.net) Be the first to correctly answer the question and Ben will send you a picture of a historic home in N. Fulton and you'll get a "shout out" in our next newsletter! ☺

The question in our last issue--Who can name what is thought to be the oldest house in Alpharetta?

Answer: The Simeon and Jane Rucker Log House (also known as the Rucker House), dating to approximately 1833, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It's located at the intersection of Rucker and Broadwell roads in Alpharetta.

~Ben Hollingsworth



### ***Off the Beds and Onto the Walls***

Saturday, October 11

from 5-7 pm

Alpharetta Arts Center

238 Canton Street in Alpharetta

Quilts go beyond covering a bed. Today, quilts are being displayed on walls; tables are now adorned with quilt toppers; and quilts have certainly moved into fashion and home decor.

The Chattahoochee Evening Stars Quilt Guild invites you to come and see the many beautiful ways that quilts made by guild members adorn our lives.

Light food and beverage served.

Live music and additional parking at 192 Mayfield Road. Free to public.

Please join us!

Be sure to visit the  
Alpharetta Arts Center  
to see the beautiful quilts made by the  
Chattahoochee Evening Stars  
Quilt Guild.

The show will run from October 1<sup>st</sup> –  
November 12<sup>th</sup>.

Everyone is invited to the reception on  
Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>.

## From the Archives



### Who am I?

Do you know who this is in the picture?

We need your help! The Archives staff is trying to identify this gentleman so we can add his story to our collection. It will help us to ensure the accuracy of our records and the integrity of our collection. If you recognize him, please let us know—your knowledge will help us preserve and share our community's history.

If you have info please send to  
[aomchsarchives@gmail.com](mailto:aomchsarchives@gmail.com)

Longtime locals will remember the **Crabapple Sausage Company**, a community staple that once produced between 1,500 and 3,000 pounds of sausage each day.

From 1953 to 1973, Jake Hughes and Roy Rusk operated the company, supplying fresh sausage not only to customers at their Crabapple facility but also to grocery stores across Georgia. (It should not be confused with the Crabapple Crossing Sausage Company, which still stocks shelves today.)

This quarter's **featured artifact** is a promotional pocketknife once given to customers—a reminder of a business that left a mark on our community's history.



*Photo credit: Kimberly Woods*



## Archives Volunteer Highlight: Savannah Troncoso

This past July, we welcomed **Savannah Troncoso**, a rising junior at Alpharetta High School, as a summer intern. Originally from California, Savannah joined us after reading an article by Bob Meyers, hoping to learn more about local history and her new community.

In just a few weeks, she gained experience in genealogy, digitization, and artifact care—all while diving into the daily work of our archives team. A special highlight was meeting Bob Meyers himself, which she said inspired her love of history and community research.

We're grateful for Savannah's enthusiasm and hope to see her return next summer!

### **Archives Department Hours**

*Tuesday/Thursday: 10:30AM - 2:30PM*

Our volunteer staff is happy to assist with research, based on our availability. If your research is extensive, please request an appointment at least 24 hours prior to your visit. We can be contacted at:

[aomchsarchives@gmail.com](mailto:aomchsarchives@gmail.com)

Phone #: 770-231-7158



*Savannah Troncoso, Archives Intern  
Photo Credit: Kimberly Woods*

### **Archives Volunteers Needed**

We are down to one part-time volunteer, along with board member archivist Marie Andersson who volunteers when she has availability on weekends.

If you, or anyone you know, would like to volunteer on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30am-2:30 pm (or just one of those days) please let us know. We are grateful for any who can join us.

We have a lot of fun AND do important work preserving our community's past.

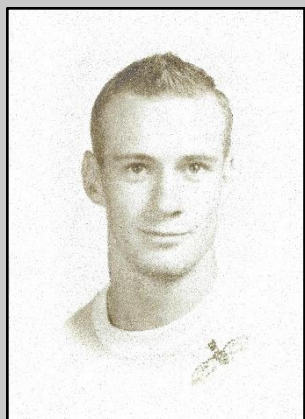
[aomchsarchives@gmail.com](mailto:aomchsarchives@gmail.com)  
770-231-7158



*Stock Image*

# Looking Back with Historian Connie Mashburn

## Gene Estes 1935-2025 Milton High School Athlete



Gene Estes passed away on August 6, 2025, at the age of 89. A native of Alpharetta, he graduated from Milton High School in 1955. While his name may not be as familiar today, those who lived in the community during the 1950s will never forget him.

Estes entered Milton HS in the early 1950s just as the school was building its new sports program, and the timing could not have been more perfect. A gifted three-sport athlete, he excelled in football, baseball, and track. His outstanding athletic skills helped launch his school's sports program to a successful start. Because of his performances on the athletic fields, he significantly influenced the community, drawing local fans to watch him and his team compete. Estes, Milton's first sports hero, became a legend in his own time.

### Football

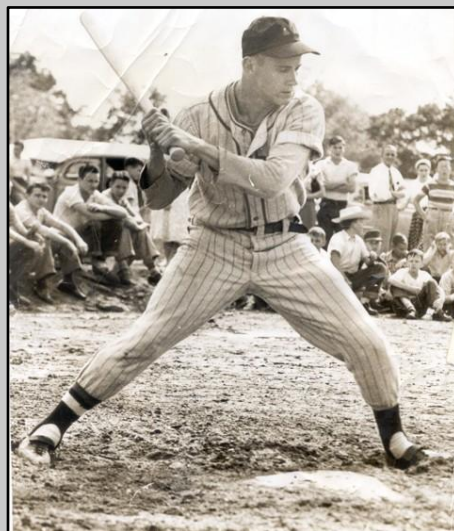
In the fall of 1952, with several returning players who already had two years of experience, the team entered the season with high hopes. Much of the optimism centered on Gene Estes, a standout tenth grader who, at six feet tall and 170 pounds, was considered big for the era. Not only was he physically imposing, but he was also the fastest player on the team and quickly became its primary ball carrier.

Milton proved to be a formidable squad, winning sixteen consecutive region games over the next two seasons, capturing one region championship, one district championship, and earning a spot in the state playoffs. Milton came up one victory short of playing in the state championship title game. At the end of the 1952 season with MHS as the number three Class B team in the state, Milton's highly successful football season created even more avid fans. Only a sophomore, Estes was named to the Class B All-State team—an honor rarely bestowed on someone so young. He continued to excel as both a junior and senior, becoming one of the few players in Georgia history to be named to the All-State team for three straight years. After a dominant 1954 campaign, Estes was chosen as the Class B Back of the Year by the *Atlanta Constitution* (now *the AJC*).

### Baseball

In the spring of 1954, Milton won the district title and finished as runner-up in region play. Estes, then a junior, was selected by the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* to play in the City of Atlanta vs. Greater Atlanta All-Star Game.

The 1955 season looked uncertain after five starters graduated. Key positions were filled by underclassmen, including a ninth-grade first baseman who had just transferred in, a pair of tenth graders in the middle infield who had never started a game, and a right fielder new to the position. By the second game, any doubts were gone. This team was competitive. The Eagles went on to win the Region 4B championship and advanced through the playoffs to capture the state



Class B title which was the first state championship in Milton High School history. It would be another 49 years before the school would win another baseball state championship.

Estes was the team's ace pitcher and played left field when not pitching, finishing the year with a 5-0 record. He also led the team in batting with a .372 average. Once again, he earned a spot in the City of Atlanta vs. Greater Atlanta All-Star Games. Estes had a triple and a single, batting in four runs to secure a win for his team. He was also selected to play in the annual North Georgia vs. South Georgia All-Star Game which featured the state's best high school players, where he was chosen to serve as co-captain of the North team.

### Track

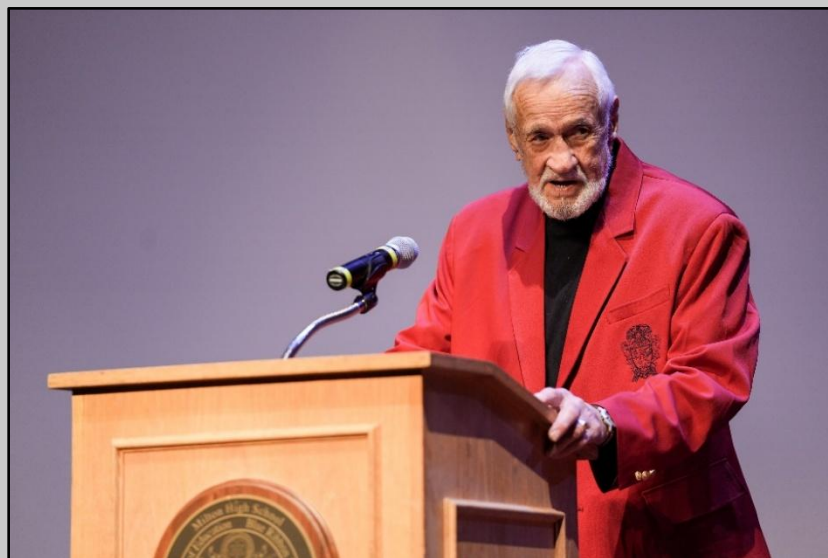
High school track and field drew less media attention in those days, but Estes excelled there as well. He competed in the high jump, broad jump, 220-yard dash, and the 880-yard relay. One teammate summed up his abilities simply: "If Gene enters an event, he'll win it." The *Atlanta Constitution* on May 5, 1955 reported: "Milton's Gene Estes won the 220-yard dash, high jump, and broad jump leading Coach Gus Letchas' Milton High School of Alpharetta track team to the Fulton County Championship..." Milton also won the Region 4B title, with Estes taking first place in the high jump and broad jump. He advanced to the state championship meet, where he placed in both events.

### Later Life



Estes earned a football scholarship to the University of Georgia, but, as a freshman, his career was cut short by a broken leg sustained in practice. He returned home to Alpharetta, where he married his high school sweetheart, Jean Porter, and enjoyed a long and dedicated career with the Atlanta Fire Department. He remained a loyal Milton sports fan throughout his life.

On September 22, 2022, Estes was inducted into the Milton High School Hall of Fame, receiving the Hall's signature red jacket and ring. At his funeral viewing, State Representative Chuck Martin—himself a Milton Hall of Fame member and the son of Charles Martin, captain of the 1952 football team—noted that Estes had been laid to rest in his red MHS Hall of Fame jacket. A family member explained to Rep. Martin that from the moment of his induction, Gene had made it clear that he wished to be buried in his red jacket.





**Gene Estes was more than an athlete; he was a symbol of Milton High School's early athletic spirit and community pride. His achievements helped launch a tradition of excellence that endures to this day. Though he has passed away, his legacy will live on in Milton's history—and in the memories of those who watched him play.**

~Connie Mashburn

### **Atlanta Newspapers' Sports Clippings On Estes**

Jimmy Mann. **"ESTES LEADS CLASS B."** 19 December 1954, *Atlanta Journal*

"Gene Estes, the mighty man from Milton named Class B Back of the year is leaving Milton. It will be a long time before fans around Alpharetta expect another such versatile performer wearing the white and blue. He did the team's kick-off, punt, and point after work - anything involving the feet. He was the team's best tackler, blocker, and was, on occasion, used as a decoy successfully. But Estes, a 6-1 180lb. star, means 'sensationalism' to fans who follow him, and 'heartbreaks' to the enemy crowd on hand. In two years, he gained 1,141 yards on 24 carries that went for touchdowns. That averages 48 yards per tote and every time, costing some team six points. Hi longest was a 93-yard carry against Roswell this year."

Bob Short. **"WHY PITCHERS TREMBLE WHEN MILTON'S ESTES STEPS UP."** 5 May 1955.  
*The Atlanta Journal*

"If there's a citizen in Alpharetta who will stop nothing short of brutal fisticuffs to convince you that Gene Estes is the best high school athlete in Georgia, you can't find him. Furthermore, it is not a very practical idea to look for him. If he can talk, you can bet the last of your depression dollars that he will mention at least part of the numerable accomplishments Estes has accomplished in bringing Milton High's athletic program to the fore. For three straight years, Estes has been named to the Class B All-State football team. During this trio of seasons, Milton has captured one Region 4-B championship and tied for another, largely through the efforts of Estes who played halfback. He was signed to a grant-in-aid by the University of Georgia immediately after the 1954 season ended. Presently, Estes is a pitcher-shortstop on the Region 5-B champions. Originally an outfielder, Estes was moved to shortstop last year by coach Ralph Wilson to fill the graduate-riddled position. He pitches also, but his power with the bat made him an everyday essential in the lineup. Estes hit .372 in the 1955 season. Turning to another sport, Estes holds the district title in the high jump and broad jump this year. It was pointed out that he is also proficient in the 100- and 220-yard dash. He runs on the 880-yard relay team. Through his four year high school career, which ends this year, 'Big Gene' has had the pleasure of playing in three different state playoffs--football in 1953 and baseball and track this year. Coach Wilson is handy with his praise of the 6-1, 185 pounder. 'I have never seen any high school kid that could even come close to him,' the coach related. 'Besides being a competitor, he takes a personal interest in all his teammates. It's boys like that a coach wants on his team.' Milton folks beamed proudly at Gene's performance at Wednesday's Fulton County High School track championship. He scored first places in the 220, high jump and broad jump, and ran a leg in the second place 880 relay team. Milton won the meet and Estes won individual honors with 15.5 points."

Charlie Roberts. **"PREP PARADE."** 31 May 1955, *Atlanta Constitution*

"Never will we be guilty, as some are, of prattling about some Johnny-come-lately halfback who 'is better than Clint Castleberry'. We believe the late, great Atlanta Boys High and Georgia Tech star, who never weighed more than 158 pounds, was the best all-around back we ever saw. Like Charlie Trippi at Georgia later, Castleberry was a tremendously able defensive player. Over a three-year span, though, we've come to wonder if the closest thing to Castleberry—when all phases of play are considered—to come out of these



parts, isn't a wiry lad named Gene Estes, who is rounding out a great career at Alpharetta's Milton High School. Principal Vic Hansard, former West Fulton High coach, and Milton coach Gus Letchas, a pair of wily and analytical football people, also hew to the theory that six-foot 180-pound Estes is one of Georgia's high school greats. Hansard sums it simply; 'Gene's the best runner, blocker, tackler, passer, pass- receiver, and punter I've ever seen.'"

**"GREATER ATLANTA WINS ON ESTES SLUGGING."**

Charlie Roberts. 18 May 1955. *Atlanta Constitution*

**"ALPHARETTA THINKS ESTES LEADS LIST OF BEST IN STATE."**

Bob Short. 5 May 1955. *Atlanta Journal*

**"ESTES ROMPS AS MILTON WINS 3-0."**

12 September 1954. *Atlanta Constitution*

**"ESTES GOES BESERK AS MILTON TRIUMPHS."**

Charlie Roberts. 6 May 1954. *Atlanta Journal*

**"ESTES, DINSMORE MAKE MILTON FEARED AGAIN."**

Charlie Roberts. 6 May 1954. *Atlanta Constitution*

**"ESTES, PHILLIPS SPARK MILTON TO TITLE 5-4."**

Charlie Roberts. 30 April 1954. *Atlanta Constitution*

**"ESTES' AERIALS, RUNS SPARK MILTON VICTORY."**

8 November 1952. *Atlanta Constitution*

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**Alpharetta City Council  
Candidate Forum  
September 15, 2025**



From left, Post 2 candidates Bart Dean, Donna Shaw Murphy, and Katie Reeves, and Post 3 candidates Councilman Douglas DeRito and Henry "Tate" Holcombe present their take on local issues during the political forum at Alpharetta City Hall Sept. 15.

JON WILCOX/APPEN MEDIA

On September 15<sup>th</sup> the Historical Society, the Alpharetta Business Association, and Appen Media Group cosponsored a forum at City Hall for candidates in the November 4<sup>th</sup> City Council election. The forum was moderated by Pat Fox, Appen's Managing Editor. Questions for the candidates were submitted by the sponsoring organizations and members of the forum audience.

Kirk Driskell, who is running unopposed in Post 1, made an opening statement but did not participate in the question-and-answer session. Candidates for Post 2 are small business owner Bart Dean, realtor Donna Shaw Murphy, and former Fulton County School Board member Katie Reeves. The candidates for Post 3 are Creative Director Tate Holcombe and Douglas DeRito, a Principal in Ryan, LLC, an international tax consulting firm. Mr. DeRito is the Post 3 incumbent.

The forum was both live streamed and recorded. It is currently available for viewing on the Appen Media Group Facebook page and will be preserved for posterity in the Alpharetta and Old Milton County Historical Society archives.

~Pat Miller

## Member Spotlight – Joan Becker Borzilleri

Even though Joan isn't originally from North Fulton, it's obvious that she is very interested in the history of the community she's lived in for twenty nine years. Joan is a member of both the Alpharetta and Milton Historical Societies.

The 1996 move to North Fulton was fortuitous for the Borzilleri family. Having spent nineteen years in built-out Dunwoody, the large lots and open spaces were welcoming. Friends kidded that TV reception came from Chattanooga. While balancing a full-time career and family, Joan became active in various conservation and preservation organizations in Milton: Birmingham Hopewell Alliance; Preserve Rural Milton, which advocated for the City's Greenspace Bond; and the new City of Milton's Historic Preservation Commission, which developed a state-approved Historic Preservation Ordinance.

As part of the City's Historical Marker Task Force, Joan delved into the rich tapestry of local history and early settlement. The twenty-eight markers generated community interest in the pioneer families who moved in following Cherokee and Creek removal. The need for an historical society was evident, and the Milton Historical Society was formed with a core group of Founding Members providing seed money. It was truly an exhilarating time for the community, with an array of talented residents and staff working collaboratively to forge a vibrant new city.

The historical markers also led a small group of concerned citizens to form the Chadwick House Preservation Committee, with Pat Miller representing AOMCHS; Bill Lusk, Carl Jackson, Jim Farris, and Joan with the Milton

Historical Society; and strong architectural leadership from Architectural Historian, Bob Gamble. Historian and author Larry Vogt added his considerable knowledge of North Georgia history to the efforts. The result of the group's research was having the McConnell-Chadwick House named to the Georgia Trust's "*Places in Peril*" program for 2023.



Joan's small nuclear family is scattered to the winds! Her daughter Laura and husband David are in the process of moving to Savannah, where granddaughter Ginger has settled. Ginger, a Florida State grad, works for *Visit Savannah*, a unit of the Chamber of Commerce. Her other hard-working granddaughter, Vivian, is a UVA engineering graduate working in Austin, TX as a project manager for a construction company.

Educated in the humanities at Daemen College (now University), in Snyder, NY, Joan leveraged her experience training adults into employment with Georgia's Department of Human Resources. She was part of a small MIS unit tasked with implementing online systems for Public Assistance programs that had been entirely paper-based. When the state-wide online system was up and running, Joan transitioned to the corporate software development arena with two major corporations. Her varied job descriptions included Product Information, interface design, and project and process management. According to Joan, the secret to anyone's success? "Just keep on showing up and doing your best!"

Thank you, Joan, for all your hard work in helping to preserve the history of North Fulton.



## Cemetery News

Lynna Lee, our Cemetery Chairperson, recently visited **Tabernacle Baptist Church Cemetery** which is located behind the church at 345 South Main Street in Alpharetta. It contains graves of some local founding families including the Samples, Webb, and Wood families.



Tabernacle Baptist Church



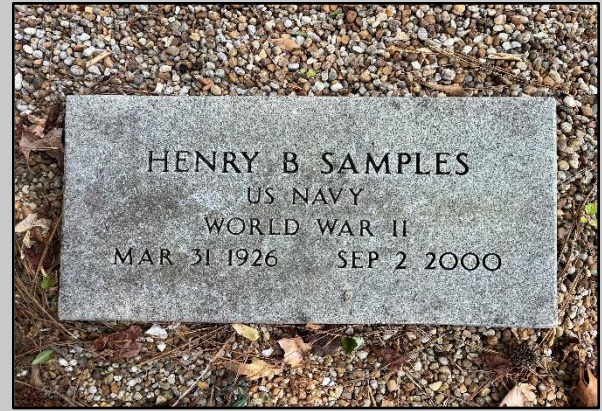
Tabernacle Baptist Church Cemetery



Henry and Minnie Wood Headstone

Henry F. Wood and Minnie McClaine had one child, Marjean Wood. She married Lucius Birt. Marjean was born on August 19, 1930 and died October 15, 2015. She was a founding member and served as director of the Alpharetta Historical Society and president of the Alpharetta Women's Club for 30 years. She was "a true civic servant who worked tirelessly for the betterment of the community in many ways. Her past efforts included working with the Cherokee Nation to preserve and protect the Cherokee's sacred sites in the area." (Cited from her Northside Chapel obituary.) *More information about the Wood family can be found in the AOMCHS Archives.*





Thank you for your service, Richard H. Lathem and Henry B. Samples. Both served in WWII.

*~Lynna Lee*

*Credit for all photos: Lynna Lee*

## **Boiling Springs Cemetery**

**Boiling Springs Cemetery Committee respectfully requests your assistance in maintaining the cemetery grounds.**

**We are organizing a Fund Raiser to pay a team to mow and trim the Cemetery on a bi-weekly basis**

### **BBQ Dinner**

**Boiling Springs Primitive Baptist Church  
Fellowship Hall  
(1200 Birmingham Road, Milton, GA)**

**Saturday - October 4, 2025**

**11:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

**\$ 10.00 / dinner**

**All funds will be used for the perpetual maintenance and upkeep  
of the Cemetery Grounds only**





## Old Soldiers Day – August 2, 2025

### American Legion Post 201, Alpharetta

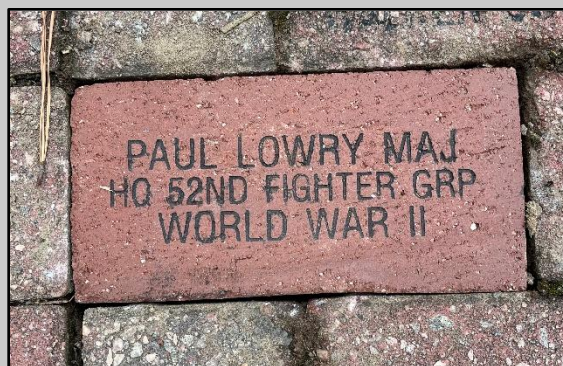
On August 2nd, American Legion Post 201 hosted its annual Old Soldiers Day observance, honoring the legacy of veterans and the traditions that connect our community to its past.

Judge Scott Childress opened the program with a talk on the history of our National Anthem, written by Francis Scott Key during the War of 1812. Tom Richardson followed with the story of Old Soldiers Day itself, which began when Civil War veterans gathered to reminisce and march through Alpharetta. After World War I, veterans of both wars continued the tradition until World War II. In 1952, the Old Soldiers Day Parade became an official Alpharetta event, held on the first Saturday in August—a tradition now 73 years old. Although the last parade took place in 2019, the spirit of the celebration lives on as a day at the American Legion, Post 201.

Georgia State Representative Chuck Martin spoke about the proud history of Post 201, founded in 1947 on Wills Road and continuing to serve as a pillar of the Alpharetta community.

This year's ceremony included a special tribute to 2nd Lieutenant Paul Laverne Lowry, who flew 49 missions as a bombardier and navigator on the B-17 Flying Fortress with the 97th Bombardment Group. In his honor, a brick was placed on the Walk of Memories, ensuring his service and sacrifice are remembered.

The program also included patriotic music performed by the Alpharetta Brass Ensemble, a tribute to both past and present heroes.



*All photos credit: Lynna Lee*

## We Need You!

The Alpharetta and Old Milton County Historical Society is seeking volunteers to serve on our Board in two key roles: **Membership Chair** and **Program Chair**.

These positions are vital to our mission—helping us grow and maintain our membership and plan engaging programs—both of which will help us continue preserving and sharing our community’s history. If you have an interest in local history and are looking for a way to volunteer for your community, we’d love to have you on our team!

For more information or to express interest, please contact Pat Miller at [ptatumiller@gmail.com](mailto:ptatumiller@gmail.com)

## Wreaths Across America



The Patriots of Liberty Chapter, NSDAR, begins its 7<sup>th</sup> year participating in Wreaths Across America in the Alpharetta, Milton, and Johns Creek area. This year it will be held nationally on **Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00pm EST**, to coincide with Arlington National Cemetery’s ceremony in Washington DC. The AOMCHS has always supported and played a big part in participating in this wonderful event as we REMEMBER, HONOR and TEACH about our nation’s veterans. A live garland wreath is placed on every veteran’s grave in the 10 cemeteries sponsored. Pat Miller will be leading the ceremony at Old Big Creek cemetery on Kimball Bridge Road in Alpharetta. Please plan to join her there to have the honor of placing a wreath on a veteran’s grave. Jennifer Boren, location coordinator for this event, would like to encourage all of you to purchase a wreath for \$17. You may use this link [www.wreathsassacrossamerica.org/GA0270P](http://www.wreathsassacrossamerica.org/GA0270P) to make an online purchase or mail a check to Wreaths Across America by printing the form below with the Patriots of Liberty group # and cemetery # pre-filled on the form. This year the DAR needs to sell 320 wreaths to place in the 10 cemeteries. You may contact Jennifer at [jfboren52@gmail.com](mailto:jfboren52@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

*~Jennifer Boren*

You can print the form on the following page (be sure to only print page 15 by changing the pages to print from “all” to “custom” and putting in 15.) Mail it in with a check to the address at the bottom of the form, OR click on this link that will take you to the website to order with a credit card [www.wreathsassacrossamerica.org/GA0270P](http://www.wreathsassacrossamerica.org/GA0270P) OR point your phone camera at the QR code in the form below to be taken to the website for online ordering.



# WREATHS *across* AMERICA

## Wreath Sponsorship Order Form

Sponsored wreaths are placed on veterans' grave markers at cemeteries nationwide each December for National Wreaths Across America Day. Your donation ensures a wreath is placed to honor one or more veterans at the participating location of your choice. **Thank you for supporting our mission to REMEMBER, HONOR, and TEACH!**

**All sponsored veteran wreaths are shipped directly to the location selected by the sponsor on this form.  
Wreaths are not shipped to individual wreath sponsors.**

CHECK #	CHECK DATE	GROUP ID	LOCATION ID(s)	DOLLAR AMOUNT
		GA0270P	GA0LBC	



Each individual wreath sponsorship is \$17.

If your check is for multiple locations, list each location ID with its dollar amount.

SPONSOR NAME	
PHONE #	
EMAIL ADDRESS	
MAILING ADDRESS	

### SPECIAL REQUESTS

**Please note in memory/honor of requests do not place a wreath on a specific loved one's grave.**

- ☐ **IN-HONOR OF:** Let someone know you sponsored wreath(s) for veteran(s) in their honor. We will email them.  
→ Provide Email Recipient Name & Email Address, along with Message (optional):

\_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ **IN-MEMORY OF:** Post a veteran's name & message on Wreaths Across America's Remembrance Wall online.  
→ Provide Veteran Name for Memory Wall Post and Message (Optional):

\_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this form and mail it with your check to our address below, or pay with a credit/debit card, PayPal, or GooglePay by sponsoring online at [www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org/GA0270P](http://www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org/GA0270P) or by scanning the QR code.

Wreaths Across America  
P.O. Box 249  
Columbia Falls, ME 04623



WREATHS *across* AMERICA

# Member Programs

## Fall Recap

### August 2025

#### Exploring Historical Foods and Food Preservation

**Presenter: Chef Christy**



At the August program of the Alpharetta Historical Society, members were treated to a fascinating presentation by Chef Christy Seelye-King, better known as “Chef Christy,” who shared her knowledge of historical food preservation techniques.

Chef Christy began with an interesting discussion of the ways food was kept fresh before the advent of modern refrigeration and preservation. People relied on methods such as drying, curing with salt or brine, smoking, pickling with vinegar or alcohol, fermentation, and storing items in root cellars that maintained a constant temperature. In colder climates, food could even be freeze-dried naturally.

Chef Christy also highlighted how families in our own region used specialized buildings to help preserve food. **The Spence House** once had both a smokehouse and a well. **The**

**Weatherford family farm** maintained a dairy, preserving milk by making cheese and butter. At **Bulloch Hall**, a well house was used for cold storage, while **Barrington Hall** contained a dairy, a root cellar, and even an ice house—made possible by the expansion of railroads bringing ice to the South. **The Smith Plantation** preserved food with a corn crib and a spring house, where water kept items cool.

Many of the sayings and traditions we use today have roots in food preservation. For example, apples stored in barrels had to be turned regularly to prevent rot, giving rise to the phrase, “one bad apple can spoil the whole bunch.”

Meat, once salted, could be sealed with tar to block air exposure. Butter was stored in a “French butter keeper,” a crock of butter would be submerged upside down in brine water and left on the counter for months. Even eggs were preserved by placing unwashed, fresh eggs into a lime-water solution known as “water glass,” keeping them fresh for several months.

Canning, developed in the early 1800s, became another essential method of preservation. Wax seals were—and still are—effective at keeping air out, a principle still used today with Ball mason jars.

Chef Christy delighted the group with her knowledge and anecdotes, bringing samples prepared from original recipes. She reminded us that food history is about survival, creativity, and ingenuity.

A message from Chef Christy:

*“It was such a pleasure seeing you all again last night! I’m so happy that you are such a receptive group for all things historical food based. I love introducing people to the wonders of history through the foods that people created and, in this case, preserved.”*

She generously shared several recipes (see below) from historic cookbooks, including candied rose leaves (1776), sauerkraut prepared as it was during the Civil War, parsley preserved in butter (1865), and water glassing for keeping eggs fresh using lime water. The spelling and grammar are taken verbatim from the historic recipes and cookbooks.

~Jackie Angel



For those interested in learning more, Chef Christy can be found on:

- **Facebook:** Chef Christy – ATL
- **Website:** [www.askchefchristy.com](http://www.askchefchristy.com)
- **Patreon:** Ask Chef Christy

### **Candy Rose Leaves to Look Fresh**

Take the fayrest rose leavs red or damask and sprinkle them with rose water & lay them one by one, on white paper on a hot sunshiney day then beat some double refind sugar very small & sift it thinly on the roses, through fine laune sive & they will candy as they ly in the hot sun then turne the leaves & strow some rose water on the other side, & sift some sugar in like manner on them, turne them often sometimes strowing on water, & sometimes sifting on sugar till they be enough, then lay them in boxes betwixt clean papers & soe keep them all the year.

*The Complete American Housewife – 1776*



### **Sauerkraut**

In June 1863, when Southern troops captured the town of Chambersburg in Pennsylvania, they demanded 25 barrels of sauerkraut to help cure and prevent scurvy, and the “troublesome disease” was a big problem for the Rebel troops.

Thinly sliced cabbage in a clean crock, mixed and pounded with 2% by weight of kosher salt. Cover with a cloth and a weight, left to ferment 6 days to 2 weeks.

*Blue and Grey Cookery, Authentic Recipes from Civil War Years*, by Hugh and Judy Gowan, Daisy Publishing, 1990



**To Keep Parsley** – Gather fresh sprigs, and after washing them, chop them fine, and work them into as much butter as will be needed for boiled poultry, lamb, and fish, before the next summer. Put the butter into a stone jar and cover it with a brine made with nice salt.

*The Young Housekeeper's Friend – 1865*

**To Keep Eggs** – To four quarts of air-slacked lime, put two ounces of cream of tartar (that is, two table-spoonfuls), two of salt, and four quarts of cold water. Put fresh eggs into a stone jar and pour the mixture over them. This



will keep nine dozen, provided they are all good when laid down; and after many months, the yolks will be still whole, and the whites stiff and clear as at first. The water may settle away so as to leave the upper layer uncovered. If so, add more. Cover them closely and keep them in a cool place. Eggs should be laid down when they are at the lowest market price.

*The Young Housekeeper's Friend – 1865*



**September 2025**

## **Indian Cultural Heritage and Native Science**

**Presenter: Don Wells**



We welcomed **Don Wells**, founder of *Mountain Stewards* —an Indian Cultural Heritage project based in Jasper, GA—and co-author (with his late wife) of *Deciphering the Signs: Sacred Indian Trees and Places*, as our September speaker.

Wells shared fascinating insights into the world of Native American “bent trees,” also known as “marker trees.” These uniquely shaped trees were intentionally bent as saplings and tied to the ground or other trees to grow in unusual ways. For Native peoples, they served as markers for significant locations such as graves, safe stream crossings, or other sacred places. Many still stand today—in private yards, woods, parks, and even golf courses.

Researching Native American history presents many challenges. With no written language, much knowledge was passed orally, and many tribal elders remain cautious about sharing traditions with outside researchers. Sacred sites, too, add complexity to the work. However, Wells has built trust with at least eight tribal elders and has consulted with Pueblo and Blackfoot professors recognized for their contributions to Native Science.

Native Science teaches that all of nature is interconnected through energy. Within this idea, some individuals are considered “knowers,” while others are “perceivers”—those with the ability to sense the connections of energy harmonics vibrating across the earth. Dowsing rods, for example, are believed to detect energy, often moving when held over sites with water or graves.

Bent trees themselves carry spiritual and cultural significance. Wells explained that different types of marker trees served different purposes:

- **Storytelling and spirit trees** passed along tradition and spiritual meaning.
- **Witness trees** bore silent testimony to events or sacred gatherings.
- **Healing trees** were bent in ways that allowed someone to rest or lie upon them, with the belief that the tree’s energy could aid recovery.
- **Ascension trees** symbolized a person’s passage to the afterlife, with the body later buried in a common grave.



Wells also noted that Native heritage remains close to home. For example, there are 73 Creek graves beneath the **Duluth Library** and 78 Creek graves under the **Jackson Healthcare** site in Alpharetta.

Through his work, Wells reminds us that these trees and sites are not simply historical curiosities but living connections to the cultural, spiritual, and scientific traditions of the Native peoples who first inhabited this land.

For more information on Don Wells’ work, visit [www.mountainstewards.org](http://www.mountainstewards.org).

**Phenomenon of Dowsing**

- **Paranormal**
  - Merging of the Mind, Body, & Spirit With the Rods; Connecting with the Spiritual World
  - With the Capability, You Can Ask Yes and No Questions to Discern Information About a Site or a Place.
- **Rods Close for Yes or Don’t Move/Turn Outward for No**
  - Is There Underground Water Located Nearby? What Direction is the Water?
  - Are Their Indian Graves Here? And What Direction?
- **Is this an Indian Sacred Site?**

~Jackie Angel

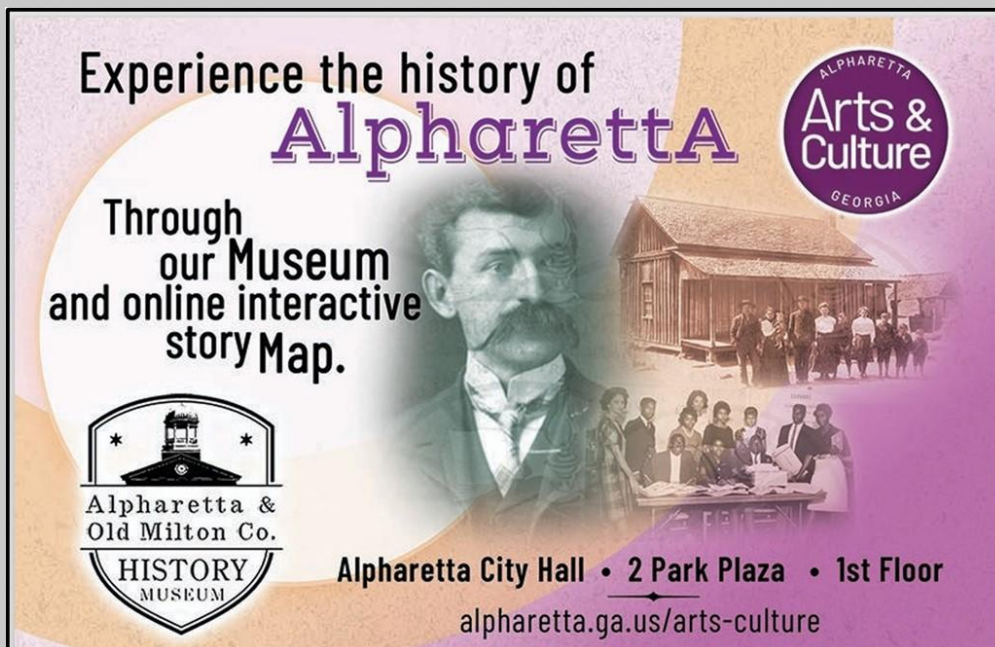




The city of Alpharetta Cultural Services Department has a wealth of information about local history. Be sure to check it out!

- 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 on any of the above to share, please email [ptatummiller@gmail.com](mailto:ptatummiller@gmail.com)



## Classes at the Log Cabin

This summer, campers took part in **ACOUSTIC JAM FEST! with Metro Music Makers** at the Log Cabin. It was the perfect setting for an acoustic version of their rock band camp. Campers were rockin' out on ukeleles, acoustic guitars, and keyboards. Campers learned how to collaborate with fun musical styles and rehearsed songs as a group.





**2025**  
**Senior Talent Show**  
**Georgia Recreation & Parks Association Event**

On Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, the Alpharetta Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Services Department presented the statewide 2025 Senior Talent Show at the Spotlight Theatre at North Point mall and three of our board members—Jackie Angel, Pat Miller, and Bonnie Steadman—were lucky enough to be asked to serve as judges. It was a blast! There were 105 performers in 24 acts representing senior centers from all over the state who seemed to be having the time of their lives. The theatre had a packed audience who enjoyed every minute of the show. The participants performed in one of four categories: Music-singing, music-instrumental, dance, and comedy. The show was emceed by Robert of Southeast Elite Entertainment. He was as enjoyable as the performers. Said Toby Smallwood, the Alpharetta Adult Activity Center Supervisor, “He skillfully and joyfully entertained and explained each and every act as we went through the day. He stalled when we needed extra minutes. He even sang a rendition of the “Cheers” theme song while beatboxing. (That was something to see)”

Toby best summed up the show:

“I watched 105 performers and as many of their friends and family gather and compete in an enjoyable and exciting talent show that had the entire room laughing, cheering, and dancing. Standing ovations when the 99-year-old sang his song! Guitar riffs, flapping fans, puppet hands. Drums, strings, and voices raised loud in harmonies. Harmonicas, comedy treats, and dancing beats. And all for the opportunity to compete with their peers from across the state and say, ‘Hey! I have years on me but look what we can do!’ and came together and had a great time, just because we could.”

While all the performers were talented in their own ways and the acts were all so enjoyable, the judges were asked, in addition to choosing winners in each category, to present a Grand Champion award and the Jo Ellis Spirit Award which was for the act that showed extraordinary effort, perseverance, and creativity. The judges chose The Sassy & Smooth Seniors from the Forest Park Senior Center who danced to *Uptown Funk* as the Grand Champions and a 99-year-old man from the Rockdale Senior Center who sang *My Love is Like a Red, Red Rose* as the recipient of the Jo Ellis Spirit award.



*Jackie, Pat, and Bonnie*

While Pat, Bonnie, and I may have initially questioned whether “giving up” a Saturday was going to be worth it, we all agreed when the show was over that we had such a fun time. Thank you to Kim Zane with the Alpharetta Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Services Department for inviting us to be a part of the day. How do we sign up for next year?!

*~Jackie Angel*

(Don’t miss the pictures from the show on the next page)





## MEMBERSHIP DUES

**Reminder:** Membership dues are paid annually in July and ensure you stay on our roster and receive all society communication and news. Dues are used to help with the Society's expenses and to provide quality services and programs. 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 by cash or check at our monthly membership meetings, or by mailing a check to:

AOMCHS Treasurer/Kim Roddy  
Mansell House  
1835 Old Milton Parkway  
Alpharetta, GA 30009

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*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 "Preserving 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 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 at 210 Milton Avenue which also can be rented for events. The Log Cabin houses the Society's archives. **To become a member** of the Alpharetta & Old Milton County Historical Society, fill out the membership application form at <https://form.jotform.com/223174503583151>*

- Follow us on *Facebook* and *Instagram* at the Alpharetta & Old Milton County Historical Society pages
- Website: [www.aomchs.org](http://www.aomchs.org)

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- ❖ **History Matters**, the AOMCHS newsletter, is published quarterly. Previous issues can be found on the Society website at [www.aomchs.org](http://www.aomchs.org)
  - ❖ Content provided by members of the AOMCHS
  - ❖ Newsletter Editor: Jackie Angel, AOMCHS Secretary

*Fall 2025 (October, November, December)*

**Happy Halloween!**

