



## Alpharetta & Old Milton County Historical Society

Winter 2026

# HISTORY MATTERS

Winter 2026

### Message from the President...

New Year's Day for me is always a time to reflect on the accomplishments of the past year and on the people who made those accomplishments happen. I'm extremely grateful to the Board members who have served with me this past year.

In this newsletter I've written a lot about the work of the Historical Society, so I won't review all that now. I'd rather talk about the hundreds of volunteer hours our Board members have contributed to this community outside of their work with the Society. For example, three of our Board members, Connie Mashburn, Shack Lewis and Bonnie Steadman, currently serve on the City's Historic Preservation Commission. Bonnie is its chairwoman. Another of our Board members, Ben Hollingsworth, formerly served on the Commission. Ben, along with Connie Mashburn, helped to compile the official list of more than 60 of Alpharetta's historic properties.



Perhaps during the holidays you've noticed the beautiful wreaths adorning many graves in our local cemeteries. Those wreaths, some 340 of them, were placed on veterans graves by members of the Patriots of Liberty Chapter of the DAR. This enormous task is coordinated by our Board member Jennifer Boren. Since Jennifer and her DAR colleagues took over the local Wreaths Across America program, they have expanded it from two cemeteries to ten. Other DAR members on our Board, Kim Roddy and Bonnie Steadman, also work on Wreaths. While Board members Jackie Angel, Lynna Lee, and I aren't DAR members, we enjoy volunteering with them on Wreaths Across America Day.

Bonnie Steadman, whose two sons are military officers, volunteers with the Blue Star Military Support Group. She and her fellow volunteers, including Kim Roddy, stuffed 160 Christmas stockings and sent them to U.S. Army troops serving in Kuwait. Bonnie, obviously a busy lady, also volunteers with the Alpharetta Symphony and the Alpharetta Arts Center.

Jennifer and her husband Curt lead a Bible study group as a part of the nationwide Community Bible Study program.

Jackie Angel, after retiring from her teaching career at Milton High School, maintains her ties to the school by coordinating its annual Hall of Fame selection and induction ceremony. Connie Mashburn is a valuable member of Jackie's selection committee.

Janice Talluto has volunteered for many years with the AARP free tax preparation program. She also works in the garden at her church. The food that the church members grow is donated to North Fulton Community Charities.

Lynna Lee is a member of the Alpharetta Garden Club which maintains the gardens at Mansell House. She also volunteers at Alpharetta Methodist Church. Lynna says she enjoys taking long walks in her neighborhood picking up trash along the way, something we probably all should do.

Ben Hollingworth, like Jackie Angel, is a retired Fulton County teacher. He spends much of his time these days creating art. His art is primarily watercolor painting and quilting, although he does do other types of artwork. Ben is a member of both the Chattahoochee Evening Stars Quilting Guild and the East Cobb Quilting Guild. He is currently president of the Fiber Art Fusion Group, an organization that makes art from many kinds of fiber. Ben was one of the original members of a community group that wanted to start an Arts Center in Alpharetta. Today he serves on the Board of Arts Alpharetta. This group provides support and volunteers to arrange exhibits at the Arts Center, curate public displays of sculpture and murals as well as other artwork around the City. They also provide free art supplies to underserved students in several Alpharetta schools.

I hope you will join me in thanking these remarkable citizens who do so much to enrich our community.

Happy New Year everyone!

Pat

~Pat Miller

## Membership Programs

2026 marks the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. One of the ways the Historical Society will be celebrating is through our monthly programs. We're teaming up with the Milton Historical Society and the Milton Public Library to host programs around the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary theme. Meetings will alternate between the Mansell House and the Milton Public Library.

**1/13/26, 6:30-7:30pm, The Mansell House: John and Abigail Adams, A Revolutionary Power Couple**

Dr. Marianne Holdzcom, History Professor, Kennesaw State University, Presenter

**2/10/26, 6:00-7:00pm, Milton Public Library: Georgia Colony in 1776**

Dr. Greg Booking, History Teacher, North Springs Charter High School, Presenter

**2/19/26, 6:30-7:30pm, The Mansell House: Georgia Signers of the Declaration of Independence (+ trivia!)**

Pat Miller and Joan Borzilleri, AOMCHS and MHS Board Members, Presenters

**3/10/26: Women During the American Revolution** (time, place, and presenter to be announced at a later date)

## Happy Birthday!

### January

1/5 Bill Pool  
1/9 Myrna Gibson  
1/11 Mary Lee  
1/14 Janice Talluto  
1/17 Matt Sevel  
1/22 Carole Pool  
1/29 Selma Merbaum

### February

2/4 Charlie Russell  
2/5 Jeannie Goodwin  
2/9 Jack Duffy  
2/18 Ray Durham  
2/22 Kim Roddy  
2/25 Kathleen Hollingsworth  
2/25 Shack Lewis  
2/26 Jane Lusk  
2/28 Ann Durham

### March

3/7 Joan Borzilleri  
3/9 Patty Bailie  
3/18 Ellen Haynie  
3/19 Laura Best



# Welcome New Members

Nancy Emmons  
Chelsea Lupica  
Phil Summerour

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. There is free, public art all around Alpharetta. My "Out and About" question this quarter is:



Can someone tell me where the piece of sculpture seen below is located? *Send me the location and you are a winner!*



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

~Ben Hollingsworth

# 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 baby so we can add the picture to our collection. Identification will help us to ensure the accuracy of our records and the integrity of our collection. If you recognize this baby, 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)

### Archives Department Hours

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

Kim Woods, our Archives staff member, is on extended leave due to a back injury and surgery. During this time, we're asking that all visits and requests for research assistance be by appointment only. We are happy to assist with research, based on our availability. We can be contacted at:

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

Phone #: 770-231-7158



*Stock Image*

### Archives Volunteers Needed

We are down to one part-time volunteer in addition to board member and 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

## **Stained Glass Window, The Walker House, 1830**

Many of you may already know the colorful journey behind this beautiful stained-glass window. For those who do not, its history is every bit as captivating as its design.

The story begins with the Walker family, who migrated from South Carolina to Georgia and settled in Alpharetta in the early 1830s. John A. Walker, a Civil War veteran, and his wife, Catherine “Kate” Weston Imes Walker, lived in a home once located at 150 Roswell Street. Their son, Golson Baker Walker—known locally as “G.B.” or “The Colonel”—continued to live in the family home. G.B. Walker later donated the Walker family land to Milton High School and played a key role in the 1932 merger of Old Milton County with Fulton County.

Believed to be the second or third oldest house in Alpharetta, the Walker House was donated to the city in 1991. At one time, plans were discussed to relocate it beside the Mansell House on Old Milton Parkway—can you imagine those two homes side by side for the community to appreciate?

Unfortunately, city budget cuts led to the home’s demolition in 1998. Thankfully, this remarkable stained-glass window was saved and later donated to AOMCHS Archives by Howard Knight and William Bates, preserving a tangible and beautiful connection to the Walker family and Alpharetta’s past.

*Research - 2023 AOMCHS intern Maggie Curl*



*Stained glass window, whitewashed wooden frame, c. 1830*  
*Photo Credit: Marie Andersson*

### **Happenings in the Archives**

On Tuesday, November 4th, the AOMCHS Archives team welcomed Archivist Jeanne-Marie Roberts of the Roswell Historical Society, along with several guests, including a Milton High School student. AOMCHS volunteer Lindsay Frommer led the group on a tour of the Log Cabin, research library, and archives. The visit provided an opportunity for RHS to see how a neighboring historical society manages and presents its collections, while sharing best practices in cataloging, preservation, and public access.

## *Looking Back with* **Historian Connie Mashburn**

### **A Tribute to Donald Mitchell** **A Champion of Alpharetta's History**



In every community, there are a few rare individuals whose dedication shapes the future in ways most of us can hardly imagine. For Alpharetta, that individual is **Donald Mitchell**—a man whose passion for preservation has safeguarded our historic landscape more than anyone else in recent history.

Those of us involved in local history know the role that Donald has played. According to Connie Mashburn, the city of Alpharetta Historian, “*Donald is the greatest friend Alpharetta’s preservation community has ever had.*” His vision, persistence, and love for the city’s past have protected buildings, recorded stories, and inspired countless others to care about the legacy of Alpharetta and Old Milton County.

#### **Protector of Our Historic Homes**

Without Donald’s leadership, Alpharetta’s architectural heritage would look very different today. There would be no historic preservation city ordinance—and no city historic preservation commission—to advocate for the structures that define our sense of place. Many of the homes we treasure would have vanished forever.

Because of Donald’s determination, thirteen historic homes have been saved, including:

- Brady House, Roswell Street
- Ralph Waters House, Roswell Street
- Skelton–Teasley House, Roswell Street
- C.V. Rainwater House, Roswell Street
- Earl Wood House, S. Main Street
- Dr. Morris House, N. Main Street

Entire portions of Cumming Street, long known as Alpharetta’s “street of historic homes,” would have been stripped of their character. His intervention preserved six of the street’s most important structures:

- Robert J. Manning House
- Norman House
- Lewis–Manning House
- Woman’s Club House
- O.C. Shirley House
- Gardner House

Each one stands today because Donald refused to let Alpharetta lose the irreplaceable.

#### **Preserving Voices Through the Stories Project**

Donald’s contribution to preservation extends beyond buildings. He understands that history includes both places and people. His idea to record professional interviews with local community members resulted in the creation of the Stories Project, one of the Historical Society’s most meaningful and beloved initiatives.

To date, more than 60 citizens—each with unique memories of Alpharetta—have been interviewed and captured on video. These recordings are not only preserved for future generations, they have become a popular and moving feature in the Alpharetta History Museum.



## Architect of the Alpharetta History Museum

One of Donald's most visionary accomplishments was the creation of the Alpharetta History Museum itself. He not only conceived the idea but also oversaw its development from start to finish. Through his efforts, more than \$230,000 was budgeted for the project, including professional designers and fabricators responsible for the museum's exceptional displays. The Historical Society contributed the artifacts—over 200 photographs and 150 historic items--now showcased in custom-designed cases for the public to enjoy. The museum stands as a testament to Donald's dedication and to the stories he worked so hard to protect.

## Saving the Log Cabin

Another of Donald's major preservation victories was saving the Milton High School FFA historic log cabin. When Milton High's original building was set to be demolished, several Fulton County schools expressed interest in moving the cabin to their campuses, but Donald stood firm: the cabin would not leave Alpharetta. His unwavering stance caused the schools to withdraw their requests.

Later, Donald worked diligently with city officials to secure a new home for the cabin on the newly acquired Beavers property across from the original Milton High campus. He also helped persuade the city to contribute \$50,000 toward relocation and preservation costs. Today, the cabin remains a treasured symbol of Alpharetta's earlier days—because Donald would accept no other outcome.

## Saving Farmhouse

Donald was a strong champion of Farmhouse preservation, a vision we hope to see brought to fruition. One of his final acts in office occurred in December 2025, when the City Council unanimously voted to move forward with the Farmhouse development at his last council meeting.

## A Lasting Legacy

Donald Mitchell's impact on Alpharetta is profound and lasting. Because of him, some of our historic homes still line our streets, our community's voices are preserved, and our museum stands strong as a centerpiece of our local history. His leadership has inspired community preservation that will save not just dozens, but potentially fifty more historic homes in the years to come.

Donald's work reminds us that history is not simply passed down—it should be protected. And in Alpharetta, no one has protected it more faithfully than he has.

As Donald's fourteen years serving as an Alpharetta city councilman comes to a close, the Alpharetta and Old Milton County Historical Society offers this tribute with deep gratitude. Donald's legacy is woven into the fabric of our community, and future generations will benefit from his passion, stewardship, and unwavering dedication.



*All photos courtesy of Connie Mashburn*

From all of us, thank you Donald!

~Connie Mashburn, Jackie Angel

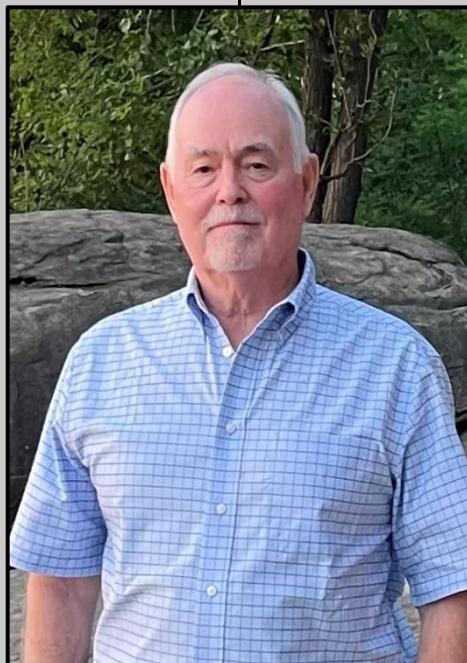
## Member Spotlight – Col. Curtis R. Boren

Curt Boren is this month's Member Spotlight—a dedicated volunteer, lifelong student of history, and a valued part of our Society for the past five years.

Curt was born on July 5, 1951, in Manhattan, Kansas, and spent his early years living throughout Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, and Colorado. His family moved to Georgia in 1966, where he completed high school at Tucker High School, graduating in 1969 and earning a four-year Army ROTC scholarship. A history enthusiast from early on, Curtis earned his B.A. in History from the University of Georgia in 1973, concentrating on early American history. That same year, the Paris Peace Accords brought an end to the Vietnam War, and the U.S. Army allowed him to defer active duty to attend law school. He completed his J.D. at UGA in 1976 and entered active duty as an Army JAGC officer shortly thereafter. He is also a graduate of the U.S. Army War College (1997).

Curt served on active duty from 1976 to 1981 and continued his military service in the U.S. Army Reserve until his retirement in 2007 at the rank of Colonel. His distinguished military career included roles as Staff Judge Advocate for both the 335th Signal Command and the 3rd Medical Command, as well as Commander of the 213th Legal Support Command. His service was recognized with numerous awards, including the Army Achievement Award, Army Commendation Medal, five Meritorious Service Medals, and the Legion of Merit.

After leaving active duty, Curt entered private law practice, focusing primarily on business litigation from 1981 to 1997. He then accepted an



appointment as an Administrative Law Judge with the Social Security Administration, where he served until his retirement at the end of 2021.

Curt and his wife, Jennifer, have built a full life together. They are longtime members of Perimeter Church and have been active in Community Bible Study, where they co-led a small group for six years. They share three adult children—Chris, Kelly, and Andrew—and are the proud grandparents of three grandsons: Jack, James, and Max.

A passionate history advocate, Curt belongs to several history organizations in addition to the AOMCHS, including the American Battlefield Trust and the Gettysburg Foundation. Curt will be the AOMCHS featured speaker in May 2026, presenting a program about George Washington and his war record.

Curt also enjoys traveling—especially the research that goes into planning each trip, college football, and never misses an opportunity to cheer on the Georgia Bulldogs.

For the Historical Society, Curt is a dependable, behind-the-scenes contributor, who jokingly describes his role as “chief administrative assistant to Jennifer—general gofer and IT troubleshooter.” His humility, service, and good humor make him a treasured member of our society and community.

We are grateful for Curt's continued dedication to AOMCHS and are proud to spotlight his many accomplishments and contributions.

~Jackie Angel

# Cemetery News

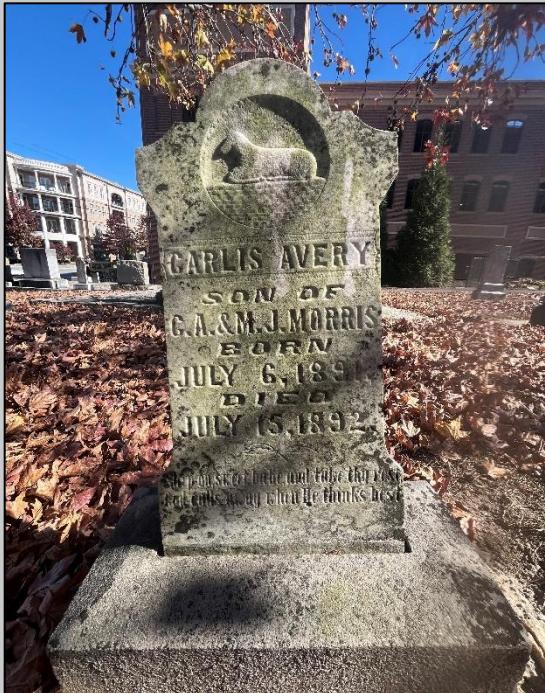
Lynna Lee, our Cemetery Chairperson, recently visited **Resthaven Cemetery** which is located on Milton Avenue across the street from Innovation Academy. Graves of many local founding families can be found there.

Resthaven Cemetery in downtown Alpharetta is owned by the city of Alpharetta. Arthur Tarpley Camp (1800-1868) donated 2 acres, circa 1860, for the creation of a cemetery. He is buried in the Martin-Camp Cemetery near the Ameris Bank Amphitheatre with other Camp family members.

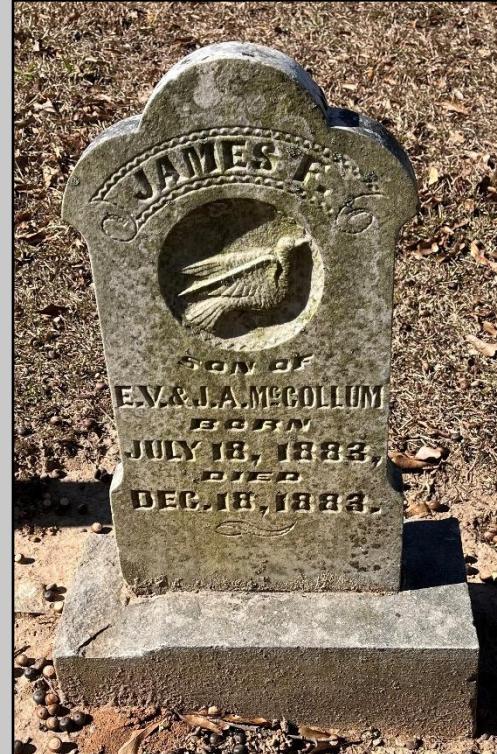
Besides seeing names of founding pioneers of Alpharetta on tombstones throughout the cemetery, there are tombstones of children indicating a much higher infant mortality rate than we know today.

In the early 1800s, there were approximately 450 infant deaths per 1000 live births and in the early 1900s there were approximately 200 infant deaths per 1000 live births.

The impact of public health improvements including access to clean water, better sanitation, and advances in medicine has greatly improved these statistics. In 2024, the infant mortality rate in the US was approximately 6 deaths per 1000 live births.



Lambs are a common symbol on infants' gravestones; a Christian symbol of innocence and purity, and one who follows Jesus, the Good Shepherd.



Doves are a Christian symbol of peace and/or the Holy Spirit and can represent flying to Heaven.



Angels signify that the departed has gone to heaven. Sometimes they are weeping or depicted carrying the baby to Heaven.

~Lynna Lee

[https://www.appenmedia.com/opinion/opinion-rest-haven-cemetery-is-part-of-alpharetta-s-history/article\\_db94b334-e11d-11ed-b23d-fb01bfd95886.html](https://www.appenmedia.com/opinion/opinion-rest-haven-cemetery-is-part-of-alpharetta-s-history/article_db94b334-e11d-11ed-b23d-fb01bfd95886.html)

<https://www.macrotrends.net/datasets/global-metrics/countries/usa/united-states/infant-mortality-rate>

<https://adventuresincemeteryhopping.com/2014/09/12/the-empty-cradle-why-did-so-many-children-die-in-past-centuries/>

<https://tuisnider.com/cemetery-symbols-doves-graves/>

<https://www.springbrookcemetery.com/gravestones>

*Photos courtesy of Lynna Lee*

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## **Wreaths Across America - 2025**

### **RECORD YEAR FOR WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA**



Thank you to all who participated in making this our best year ever! The Patriots of Liberty chapter of DAR had over 200 volunteers at the 10 cemeteries they sponsor. The AOMCHS contributed to making this so successful. There were 340 veterans remembered with a wreath placed on their graves as they were thanked for their service to our country. There were also 600 wreaths sent to the Marietta National Cemetery. As community awareness of this patriotic event increases, the timing is perfect as we begin to celebrate America 250!

~Jennifer Boren

*Photo credit: Jennifer Boren*



*Photo credit: Jackie Angel*



*Photo credit: Kim Roddy*

## 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 [ptatummiller@gmail.com](mailto:ptatummiller@gmail.com)

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## Fireplace Reflections

### Phillip Raines, Guest Contributor

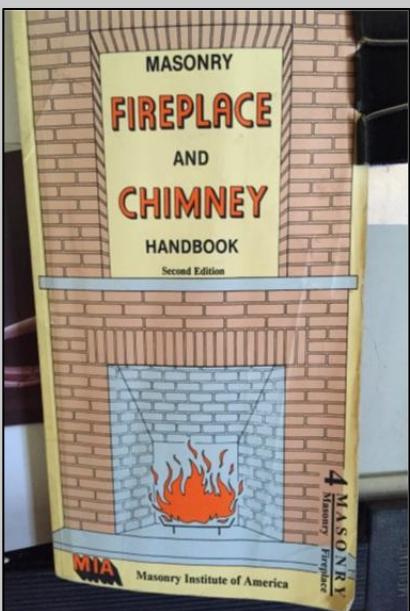
Every fall when the temperature dips below fifty, I get calls about chimneys. I built and repaired masonry chimneys for forty years, mostly near downtown in Inman Park, Chandler Park, Grant Park, Cabbage Town and others. They were old chimneys built before WW1. The fireplaces were small, less than 24" wide and shallow with cast iron frames and grates meant to burn coal which was filthy but cheap. The smoke was heavy with unburned coal dust which coated the brick flue with thick soot. In the worst case scenario, soot would catch on fire and flame would twist up the brick flue and send sparks into the sky and glowing embers would fall on the roof shingles and then the ground. The whole ordeal would last less than five minutes and not cause any damage if the masonry was sound and in good repair. It would clean out the chimney down to the bare brick leaving grainy, stinky ashes in the firebox.



In my vast library on masonry chimneys and wood heat, I've seen remedies that include covering the fire box opening with a wet towel to starve it from oxygen, some even recommending pouring rock salt on the fire to extinguish it. I've witnessed a couple of flue fires. I spread the logs apart and leaned the logs against the sides of the fire box and without the concentrated flame of a robust fire, the flue fire would go out quickly. I mention this worst case scenario to tell you that it's not that common, and in the South the results are not so dire.

For a modern fireplace, especially metal Pre-fab fireplaces, the construction is made to withstand such an event. With a bright flashlight you can lay down on the hearth, open the damper, and look up the flue. If the soot looks thick, then it probably needs cleaning and you should call a chimneysweep. A rule of thumb is to sweep the flue every two years. If it looks pretty clean, go get a bundle of kiln dry firewood from the grocery store and build a small fire. There are plenty of videos on how to build a fire.

I like to use the big stuff on the bottom with smaller stuff on the top and use a fire starter on the top. Don't make a big roaring fire. You don't need it for heat, you just want a little flicker. I build a morning fire every day during fire season. The fire lasts barely an hour as I read and drink coffee. The best thing to do is call a chimneysweep for an inspection if you're not sure of yourself or your chimney. If it's an old chimney that hasn't been used in a while you definitely need to call a chimneysweep to take a look at it, but beware, some chimney companies want to sell you a liner package worth fifteen thousand dollars. You can thank them for their time and send them along.



I worked for lots of chimneysweeps doing their big masonry repairs and even spoke at one of their regional seminars and they were good guys, self-employed businessmen. When chimney companies got corporate with investment capital, things changed and fear was used as a sales tool. When masonry repairs became substantial, that's when chimneysweep or homeowners would call a mason like me. Every seventy years or so, chimneys would need extensive repair. If an old house was getting a new roof, I would tear down a chimney until I reached the roof and then take the chimney a foot or two below the roof. Old framing would often rest against the chimney and mortar joints might have deteriorated inside the flue and couldn't be seen where the old chimney passed next to the framing which was dry from years of summer heat in the attic. The code at the time said to install terra cotta flue tiles below the roof and smear mortar inside and outside the chimney, making it impossible for a chimney fire to peek through the joints and ignite the framing.

Such a catastrophe never happened in the old neighborhoods where I worked. In the 1920's, it was a dark age in chimney building and fireplaces that looked just fine were built wrong. The flue was too small for the firebox opening, the lintel was too thick and the list went on and on as masons didn't build chimneys by the book and it's not a very thick book of knowledge. There are logical reasons for this. Natural gas replaced solid fuels for heating a home and fireplaces became "ornamental", maybe the chimney flue was just enough to vent a gas space heater but as fireplace masons would say "this firebox couldn't draw flies."

Around the 1950's, working fireplaces came back in fashion and they were called conventional fireboxes. They were deep and wide with big flues and while they worked well most of the heat went up the flue. Many of these had gas starters which allowed for starting big pieces of firewood which would catch with out kindling or fire starters like fat lighter. The larger firewood would cause thermal shock to the firebrick

that lined the firebox and the fire brick would have to be replaced or the brick cleaned and reused in the rebuild. Often this era firebox would have gas logs and so it really needed nothing, though gas logs create an oily soot which when cleaned creates a black “India ink” that can stain anything.

By the seventies, pre-fab, or zero clearance chimneys, replaced masonry fire places. As one builder put it to me “If I hire a mason, I’m not sure the fireplace will work properly but if I have a prefab installed it will cost less and works every time.” These became really popular filling new homes and entire apartment complexes with mostly unused fireplaces. There are several reasons why fireplaces were left unused. Most people didn’t grow up around them and their parents didn’t want the added chore of dragging in firewood. Coziness was just a thermostat adjustment away. There were always enthusiasts for home fires even in temperate climates.

I rebuilt a fireplace for a lady who would crank down the air conditioning to 65 just so she could build a little fire. Informed clients got all worked up about Rumford fireplaces in the nineties and I built several, some were full herringbone patterned. A rumored fireplace has steeply angled sides and a shallow depth for the fireback. They also had a throat just curved throat like the edge of a jet wing above the fireplace opening that accelerated the draft. They were so efficient they’d blast you out of the room. They drew like a champ though but I honestly thought they put out too much heat for a modern house.

I built my last chimney at age sixty in the summer. The firebox was just 28 inches wide with an arch opening. It was for an architect’s house. She said she talked to a group of architects and they were surprised and thought it was cool that it was a mason designed and built chimney. You just never see that anymore.



Now I’m much more satisfied in retirement. Masonry is really physical work but I still love the topic and know so much about it and have read so much about wood heat and chimneys I feel a duty to share a few things. My friend and old bandmate Shack Lewis asked me to write something on fireplace safety and then he wrote “anything historical would be good too”. So here is my advice. Build fires a lot and get good at it. Don’t be afraid. Get some fireplace tongs and a poker and work the fire. Use dry wood. It makes less soot and smoke and doesn’t pop. You can control the heat of the fireplace by using a screen and always put up a screen when you walk out of the room and keep flammable materials away from the fireplace when the fire is dancing. If you can touch a piece of furniture and count to five and it’s too hot, move it in the shadow of the flame not in its glow. When the fire goes out, leave the damper open afterwards so combustible gases and burning coals don’t stink up the room. Heat wants to go to the sky so let it.

Sometimes I smoke a tobacco pipe and when I do the fireplace will pull the pipe smoke out of the room. I think a pipe smells good but most people insist smoking is relegated to the outdoors strictly, but I’m not so strict. When I sit by the glow and blow smoke rings by the fireplace I reflect and think deeply, often about fires and their relation to people throughout history. Nothing incites imagination like a home fire.

# Member Programs

## Fall Recap

### October 2025

#### Revolutionary and Civil War Weaponry

Presenter: Historian Joey Seguin

The Alpharetta and Old Milton County Historical Society's October program featured military historian Joey Seguin, who gave a fascinating presentation comparing the weapons used in the Revolutionary War and the Civil War—and how technological differences shaped the way each war was fought.

Mr. Seguin, who holds a degree in History from Mercer University and currently serves as a history interpreter at Stone Mountain Park, arrived dressed in authentic 19th-century attire, including a handmade linen vest and pants and a pocket watch dating back to 1853.

He began his talk by explaining how several phrases still used today—such as “*going off half-cocked*,” “*lock, stock, and barrel*,” and “*flash in the pan*”—originate from the workings (and misfires) of the flintlock musket used during the Revolutionary War.

To illustrate his talk, Mr. Seguin brought an impressive collection of historical artifacts: a Revolutionary War musket, a Civil War rifle, bayonets from both wars, ammunition holders, a powder horn, and uniforms representing Georgia soldiers from each era.

He noted that during the Revolutionary War, the colony of Georgia, then just a narrow strip of land along the coast, was hesitant to join the rebellion against Britain. Much of what is now Georgia was then Cherokee and Creek territory.



The smoothbore musket was the primary weapon of the Revolutionary War. While British troops were highly skilled in bayonet combat, American soldiers were not—and General George Washington eventually threatened court-martial for those who refused to learn. The eventual mastery of the bayonet by American soldiers ultimately helped secure American victory.

Weapons in the Revolutionary War were handmade, but by the time of the Civil War, firearms were being mass-produced, revolutionizing warfare. The rifle (developed around 1820) and the Colt revolver (patented in 1836) were major advancements that changed battlefield tactics dramatically.

While both the Union and Confederate armies used similar weapons, the Union's advantage in manpower ultimately proved decisive.

Mr. Seguin's engaging presentation brought these eras to life, helping members appreciate how evolving weapon technology not only influenced combat strategy—but also left its mark on our language and history.

~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)

Experience the history of  
**Alpharetta**

Through  
our Museum  
and online interactive  
story Map.

Alpharetta & Old Milton Co.  
HISTORY MUSEUM

ALPHARETTA  
Arts & Culture  
GEORGIA

Alpharetta City Hall • 2 Park Plaza • 1st Floor  
alpharetta.ga.us/arts-culture

# Classes at the Log Cabin

Class registration can be found here: <https://www.alpharetta.ga.us/government/publications/recreation-parks-activity-guides>

## FASHION DESIGN & SEWING WORKSHOPS with EV Fine Arts

Join us for a series of sewing workshops! Design and create your very own clothing using a sewing machine. Students will work on a different project each session, gaining a great sense of accomplishment after they see each garment come to life. There is a fashion show at the end of the class series for the students to showcase all of their hard work. All levels of experience are welcome to join. Sewing machines and all materials are provided.

Ages: 6- 12

Cost: \$225 residents / \$337.50 non-residents

Location: FFA Log Cabin, 200 Milton Avenue

Dates	Day	Time	Activity #
Mar 7-Apr 4	Saturday	1-3p	#36810



## Alpharetta Scarecrow Harvest

2025 was the 20th year of the Alpharetta Scarecrow Harvest, consisting of over 150 unique scarecrows made by local schools, non-profits, families, neighborhoods, and businesses. Thank you to Lynna Lee, AOMCHS Cemetery Chair and interim Membership Chair, and her husband Brian, for creating a fabulous scarecrow for our AOMCHS entry.



*~Photo courtesy of Lynna Lee*

# AOMCHS HOLIDAY LUNCHEON 2025

Once again, the Log Cabin was transformed inside and out with festive Christmas décor, thanks to the creativity and dedication of our Hospitality Chair, Jennifer Boren. The cabin featured a charming Christmas tree, a cozy fire in the fireplace, and beautifully arranged Santa centerpieces and table settings that created a warm holiday atmosphere.

Members gathered to mingle and enjoy one another's company before sitting down to a delicious, catered traditional holiday meal. A heartfelt thank you to Jennifer and her always helpful husband, Curt, for making our holiday celebration such a joyful and fun occasion.





*Photos courtesy of Jackie Angel and Jennifer Boren*

## 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

*Winter 2026 (January, February, March)*



**Happy New Year!**