



Spring 2023

# HISTORY MATTERS

Spring 2023

## Message from the President.....

Johns Creek.....Fact or Lore?

My wife Mary Jo, our two daughters Megan and Erin, and I moved from Worthington, Ohio to unincorporated (North) Fulton County in 1989. The area was incorporated as the City of Johns Creek, Georgia in 2006. The city took its name from Johns Creek Technology Park and a creek that runs through the city. However, there are three versions of the naming of the creek.



The most popular is that the creek was named for Johnson K. Rogers. Johnson and his brother Robert played a part in the Cherokee Indians removal by signing the Treaty of New Echota in 1835 which ceded the Cherokee land north and west of the Chattahoochee River to the state of Georgia, resulting in the tragic "Trail of Tears" in 1838.

A second version of the naming of the creek is offered by Forsyth County Historian Don L. Shadburn. According to Shadburn, the creek was named for an Indian named John who came from North Carolina after allegedly killing a person and then lived on the Johns Creek. When Indian John learned there was a warrant for his arrest, he quickly and quietly disappeared.

Caroline Dillman, author of *Days Gone By*, reported that the creek was named for John Moulder. In chapter 24, volume II, published April 15, 1990, Dillman indicated that the Moulder family owned several hundreds acres in Old Milton County near the Forsyth County line near the intersection of McGinnis Ferry and Sargent Roads. Johns Creek is east of the intersection. This claim is doubtful in that John Moulder was born in 1822. Older maps consistently denote Johns Creek was named before John Moulder was born.

The City of Johns Creek is made up of four "communities": Warsaw, Shakerag, Ocee and Newtown. Warsaw, the oldest community, has two versions of how the community was named.

### Warsaw

According to some, the Warsaw community was founded by a group of Moravians that came to Georgia in the mid-1700s, arriving in Savannah, with some later migrating to and settling in the Warsaw Community in the old Cherokee Nation north of the Chattahoochee River, just north of State and Medlock Bridge Roads. Warsaw was centered around the Warsaw Ferry (aka the George Water Ferry/Waters and Howell Ferry), the Warsaw Campground, The Warsaw Church and Cemetery, and its post offices established in Forsyth County. The community was later brought into Milton County when it was formed in 1857.

Some thought the name was transferred from the capital of Poland during a time of revolutionary fervor. The problem with this version is the Moravians were German, not Polish.

The second Warsaw version is believed to be corrupted from the Indian word *wiso*, meaning “sassafras,” which was also the derivation of Wassaw Island on the Georgia coast, and Wassau in Florida. Which version is correct?

### **Newtown**

The Newtown community centers around the old Mt. Pisgah Church (now Pleasant Hill Baptist Church), the new Mt. Pisgah Church, and the Newtown School. Some believe Newtown to be the Americanization of the Cherokee word which translates to “new town.” Others believe Newtown derives its name from the Newtown Militia District.

### **Ocee**

Ocee was first called New York and later called Mazeppa. Mazeppa was a Post Office located near the intersection of State Bridge and Kimball Bridge Roads. It was named for a popular legend/poem about the early life of Ukraine military leader Ivan Mazepa.

Mazepa had a love affair with a Polish Countess, Theresa, while serving as a page at the Court of King John II Casimir Vasa. On discovering the affair, the Count punished Mazepa by tying him naked to a wild horse and setting the horse loose. The bulk of the poem describes the traumatic journey of Mazepa’s suffering, returning to Ukraine, and his recovery. Mazepa later returned to Poland and defeated the King.

When the Mazeppa Post Office closed, a new Post Office was established near the intersection of Kimball and Jones Bridge Roads. Ocee had several general stores and churches and the Ocee Courthouse, which conducted local legal matters at the Milton County Court of the Ordinary.

Several long-term area residents offered different versions as to how the Ocee community got its name. According to long-term resident Jackson Morton, who passed away in 2018, Ocee is a Cherokee word meaning “beautiful view.” According to long-term resident Judy Webb, the community got its name by residents standing on a small hill near the Jones Bridge and Abbott’s Bridge intersection, looking across the cotton fields toward Duluth, and seeing the sun glancing off the railroad locomotives and exclaiming: “Oh, See!” Alpharetta historian Billy Bates insisted that Ocee was named for O.C. Shirley who had a dry goods store in Ocee. History would be boring if we had only one version.

### **Sheltonville/Shakerag**

The Shakerag community has the distinction of being known by seven different names over the years. First the area was called Rogers for the John Rogers farm/plantation, then Chattahoochee. The area was also called Oakland and later called Shady Grove for the church and cemetery now at McGinnis Ferry and Boyd Roads.

Starting in the 1840s, the area was called Sheltonville after a tavern owner and one time postmaster, Vardy Shelton. Deed transactions show the area as Suwanee and records and highways maps of the early 1950s show the intersection of Bell and McGinnis Ferry Roads as Sheltonville. No one is certain how it later became Shakerag as there are many different versions, usually involving using a rag as a greeting or signaling device. The version that makes the best sense is the one that explains lookouts signaling bootleggers to destroy their liquor stills along area creeks because revenue officers were coming to make arrests.

While doing research on the Old Milton County post offices and crossroad communities, I saw other interesting name changes and contradictions.....facts or lore?

## Upcoming Programs - 2023

Members and guests are all invited!

### Thursday April 20, 2023, 7pm at the Log Cabin

#### **Beekeeping and Egg Handling Presentation**

Long term AOMCHS member Buck Bailie will present the art and science of Beekeeping. Also, Amanda Musilli, Alpharetta Recreation and Parks Community Services Manager, will give a presentation on Egg Handling to include grading of size, shape, shell appearance, color and conditioning, and quality.

### Thursday May 18, 2023 10:30am

#### **Tour "History Cherokee" at the Cherokee County History Center and walk through the historic Riverview Cemetery**

Located at the Cherokee County History Center in downtown Canton, Georgia, "History Cherokee" documents the history of Cherokee County spanning from Native American inhabitants to the industries, people, and events which shaped the area to what it is today. The Cherokee County History Center is at 211 East Main Street, Canton Georgia. Following "History Cherokee," we will walk Riverview Cemetery.

### Sunday June 11, 2023 2pm at The Mansell House

Bring a friend and a covered dish to our traditional board installation and AOMCHS recognition picnic. AOMCHS will provide the meat and drinks. Alpharetta Councilman John Hipes will swear in the new officers and Board of Directors.

## From Our Past

This excerpt is taken from the September 1990 AOMCHS newsletter *Footprints Through Milton*

### **HOW OLD IS YOUR NAME?**

It's interesting how given names are passed from one generation to another. We all know that the earliest English-speaking settlement in this country was the Roanoke Colony of North Carolina which later mysteriously disappeared and became known as the Lost Colony. However, the names of its pioneers remain, and many of their given names are still popular today. Of the 99 men and boys of the colony, 23 were named John; 15, Thomas; 10, William; 7, Henry; 7, Richard; 3, George; 3, Robert; 2, Hugh; 2, Michael; 2, James; and 2, Roger. Of the 17 women and girls recorded, 3 were named Jane and 2, Elizabeth. The others were Agnes, Alice, Audrey, Eleanor, Elynor, Emma, Joan, Joyce, Margaret, Marjorie, Rose, and Winifred.

## Mansell House News

- We are busy renting and showing the Mansell House for future rentals. We are diligently working on completing our BRIDES DRESSING ROOM. There's still more to do. We will let you know when it is ready for viewing.
- Carole Pool, our Friday volunteer, is recovering from hip surgery.
- The CITY LUNCH is scheduled for **May 4<sup>th</sup>**. You will hear more about this in the future.  
**SAVE THE DATE!**

~Jeannie Goodwin  
Mansell House Chair

# Happy Birthday!

## April

4/4 Bill Haynie  
4/7 Joseph Roddy  
4/10 Jennifer Boren  
4/29 Alice Fernandez

## May

5/1 Lynn Latham  
5/3 Josephine Dufresne  
5/4 Chanel Soares  
5/9 Jane Mashburn  
5/11 Kim Manning  
5/17 Michael Cochran  
5/19 Laura Keck

## June

6/11 Nelda Berry  
6/17 Linda Mansell Martin  
6/21 Bonnie Steadman

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Alice and Daniel Fernandez  
Philip Houston

Brian and Lynn Lee  
Carol Ann Tanner

### In Memoriam



We are sad to report that long-term Alpharetta and Old Milton County Historical Society member, Nan Harman-Dempsey, died on February 13, 2023. Nan was born on June 19, 1942. She was a lifetime resident of Alpharetta. Her funeral service was held on February 17<sup>th</sup> at Alpharetta First United Methodist Church with her burial at Rest Haven Cemetery.

Nan served as the Society's President for two years and for many years was a docent at the Mansell House on Wednesdays. After graduating from Milton High School, she attended Young Harris Junior College, earning an A.A. in 1962 and attended Georgia State University, earning an A.B. in 1965. She graduated from John Marshall Law School, earning her J.D. in 1984 and was later admitted to the Georgia Bar in 1991. Nan was an attorney and practiced criminal and personal injury law for over 30 years.

The Society sends our condolences to her family and friends.

## 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 up 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/Mary Lee  
Mansell House  
1835 Old Milton Parkway  
Alpharetta, GA 30009

## From the Historian

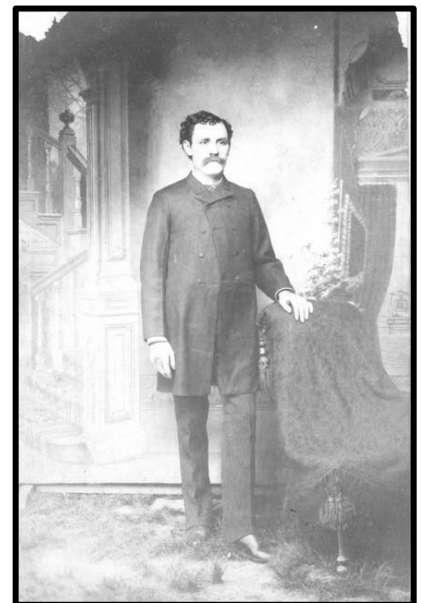


In 1932, shortly after Milton County merged with Fulton County, local residents organized a motorcade to travel to Atlanta. The cars circled the Fulton County Courthouse several times, with horns blowing. The purpose of the event was to draw attention to the North Fulton residents need for a paved road linking Alpharetta and Roswell, now known as Georgia Highway 9. There were no paved roads in Milton County before the merger with Fulton County. Construction began on the project before the end of 1932.

~Connie Mashburn

Thomas A. McCleskey was born in 1860 in Double Branch District near the Arnold community and Little River. Mr. McCleskey owned a large farm near Arnold. He married Mary O. Hook in 1890 and moved to Alpharetta where he served a term as Milton County sheriff. He became a blacksmith and opened a shop on Roswell Street where he and Mary lived.

~Connie Mashburn  
Historian



## Centenarian Selma Merbaum honored by the Alpharetta & Old Milton County Historical Society



Long term Alpharetta & Old Milton County Historical Society member Selma Merbaum celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023. AOMCHS hosted a birthday reception from 1:00 to 3:00pm at the Mansell House. Family, friends and AOMCHS members dropped by and brought birthday cards, shared birthday wishes, and enjoyed birthday cake with Selma. She was also honored on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023 by the Golden Age Club at the Alpharetta Adult Activity Center at North Park.

Selma was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 1923. She was raised in the Bronx and graduated from James Monroe High School. She started City College but was unable to finish as she needed to go to work.

Selma served as a Deputy Zone Commander for the Air Warden Service and was recognized for her work there in 1943. She received recognition of service from the United States Navy in November 1945 for her work in the Navy Yard in New York City.

Always a lifelong learner, Selma returned to Queens College and graduated with honors. She majored in history with an emphasis on Jewish History and was a member of Phi Alpha Theta.

Using all that knowledge, she went on to create several different lectures on topics of Jewish historical interest. She was well known for these talks. Some of her favorite lectures included: "Pushcarts and Peddlers"- the history of early retail from the pushcarts to the storefronts, mainly by immigrant Jews; "Jewish Gangsters" and "Jews of the Civil War." She also wrote newspaper articles on the same topics for the Atlanta Jewish Times.

Continuing her education, Selma and her husband Isidore spent several summers at the Madison Senior Scholars Institute in Madison, Wisconsin. Selma is still taking courses to this day.

Selma and her husband were world travelers. Their motto was "Do it when and while you can." Their favorite destination was, of course, Israel. They made five trips there and two of those were spent volunteering on an Army base wearing full uniforms!

Selma was married briefly to Dr. Sol Krell, but unfortunately, he passed away after four years marriage.

Up until COVID, Selma studied with Rabbi Zimmerman at congregation Beth Shalom, and she and her daughter Sabina Slaw, who also serves as Selma's private chauffeur, are taking courses with Rabbi Minkowicz at Chabad of North Fulton.

Selma has received numerous awards and recognition for her service to many organizations which include:

- President of every school PTA that her children attended (she also wrote the school newsletter for the elementary school)
- Chapter President of the National Council of Jewish Women
- Several terms as Synagogue Sisterhood President
- Active member of the Democratic Club
- Executive Board member of every synagogue of which she has belonged
- Chairman of the Board of Jewish Education for the Yeshiva of Flushing, N.Y. Workmen's Circle
- long term member of the Alpharetta & Old Milton County Historical Society
- Member and past President of the Golden Age Club



Although Alpharetta Mayor Jim Gilvin and Johns Creek Mayor John Bradberry were away on city planning retreats, both recognized Selma via commendations.



## Member Spotlight – Norman and Martine Broadwell

Norman and Martine Broadwell are long-time members of the Alpharetta and Old Milton County Historical Society, serving in several capacities. They also served for many years as educators in our local schools.

Norman grew up in the Roswell community. He graduated from Roswell High School, Young Harris College, and Peabody College at Vanderbilt University where he met Martine. Martine was born in Bowling Green, Kentucky and grew up on a farm in Pulaski, Tennessee. She earned both her undergraduate and graduate degrees from Peabody College in Nashville. In 1963, Martine and Norman were married in Pulaski and then moved to Roswell. They both had long careers in north Fulton county schools. Martine taught at Alpharetta Elementary for three years and at Haynes Bridge Middle School for eighteen years. Norman worked at Riverwood and Chattahoochee High Schools and Webb Bridge and Sandy Springs Middle Schools, but the majority of his career was spent as both a teacher and administrator at Milton High School (eighteen years.) In addition to teaching, he coached football, basketball, and track and was instrumental in starting Milton's first tennis teams as well. Norman made a tremendous impact on many students and teachers alike. He was a staunch supporter of the Special Education program, served as what is now termed the Curriculum Assistant Principal or CAP, building the master teaching schedule, and helped oversee the athletic programs. He had a passion for serving "at-risk" students and brought the Project Adventure organization to Milton. He oversaw building a ropes course on campus to use for programming and

facilitating many workshops for students and faculty. He also took those groups on whitewater rafting trips and made life-changing connections through his work.

In 2001, Norman and Martine joined the Alpharetta Historical Society. They have been vital members, serving in many capacities, throughout the years. They served for sixteen years on the Board as docents for the Milton Log Cabin. They often posed as a

farmer and wife from the late 1800s. During those sixteen years, they showed the Log Cabin and taught history to approximately 3000 children from pre-school, elementary, high school, and also older adults. For twelve years they also presented a special feature at the Society membership meetings each month on people who were native Georgians and had accomplished something important in their lives. The feature was called "History Mystery". One example was Jimmy Carter.

In addition to their involvement with the Society

by being actively involved in the Log Cabin Education program on the old Milton campus, they were also instrumental in the preservation and relocation of the Cabin to its current site near the old Milton High School campus in downtown Alpharetta.

Martine has served 15 years and counting on the Society's Sunshine Committee--sending cards (Get Well, Thinking of You, Sympathy, and Birthday) mostly to our older members. She also calls older members on their birthday.

Norman and Martine will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on June 30th this year. They have three wonderful children, Lesley, Lara, and Neal, and three grandchildren, plus a grand dog named Gus.

~Jackie Angel  
Secretary







*Norman and Martine at the dedication of the Milton High School historical marker at the original site of MHS in 2021*



*Norman, Martine, and family at Norman's induction into the Milton High School Hall of Fame in 2022*

## DAR Donates Coverlet to the Historical Society



Jennifer Boren (on the right in the picture,) our local DAR Regent, representing the Daughters of the American Revolution, recently donated a coverlet to the Society that dates back to the early 1800s. The coverlet came to DAR from the Bates family of Alpharetta. There isn't much history available—there was a letter that went with it at one time, but its whereabouts are not now known. Jennifer said it is a common pattern, hand woven, and was probably originally in the hands of a “common” family. Debra Kielly accompanied Jennifer and assisted in the presentation at the February Society Board Meeting. Debra has been elected as the next DAR Regent. Pat Miller said that the Milton Historical Society is in possession of a lot of Billy Bates papers and hopefully the letter regarding the coverlet can be found. The coverlet will be displayed at the Log Cabin. Members and the public are welcome to visit and view it.

*~Jackie Angel  
Secretary*

# The Martin-Camp Cemetery Is Endangered



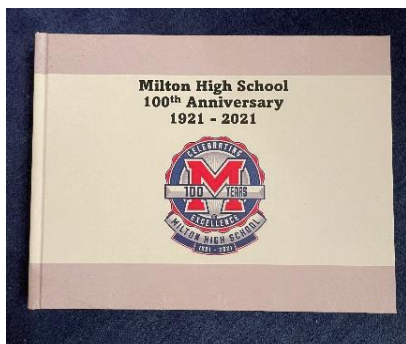
The final resting place of some of the area's earliest citizens is the Martin-Camp Cemetery in Alpharetta. While many of the graves there are unmarked, the first marked grave is that of Elizabeth Martin Camp. Elizabeth, the first wife of Arthur Tarpley Camp, died in 1848, ten years before the creation of Milton County and its county seat Alpharetta. When Elizabeth and Arthur's daughter Susan Key Camp died in 1861, Arthur donated land to the newly formed town of Alpharetta for a cemetery. That land grew into what today we know as Rest Haven Cemetery. Susan was the first person to be buried there. Her husband Russell Davis Garrison, who died in 1864, was the fourth.

After Elizabeth's death, Arthur remarried. His second wife, Nancy Maxwell, was the daughter of John A. Maxwell and Agatha Agnes Henry. John, the only Revolutionary War soldier known to be buried in Alpharetta, is interred in the nearby Maxwell Family Cemetery. After John's death Agatha, a niece of Declaration of Independence signer Patrick Henry, moved to Alabama with one of her sons. She is buried there. Arthur Camp passed away in 1868 and Nancy in 1891. Both are buried in the Martin-Camp Cemetery.

The Martin-Camp Cemetery is divided into two sections. Section Two, which contains the graves of African Americans, appears to be newer than Section One. As with Section One, many of the graves in Section Two are unmarked. The hand carved stone for someone named Ridgeway is the oldest grave with a legible headstone. Ridgeway's first name is unknown, but we do know that he or she died in 1893.

Today the Martin-Camp Cemetery does not have a caretaker. It is overgrown and in danger of being reclaimed by nature. Under Georgia law, the City of Alpharetta can take over maintenance of the cemetery but is not required to do so. It is my hope that our city officials will choose to preserve this important reminder of Alpharetta's founders. If you agree, please contact the Mayor and/or City Council members.

*~Pat Miller  
Cemetery Committee Chair*

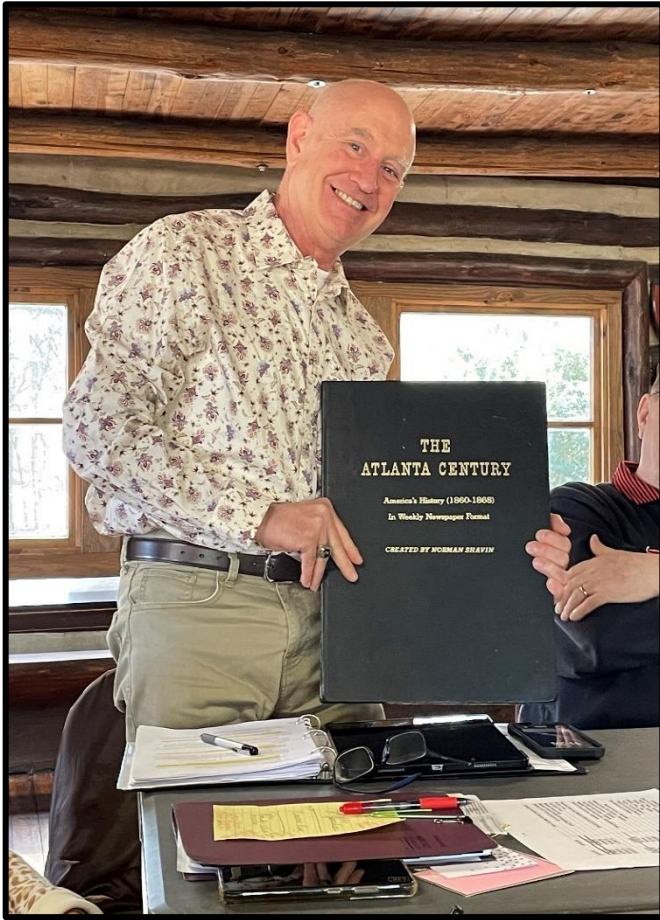


The AOMCHS Archives now includes a picture book based on Milton High School's history and 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. The book can be viewed at the Archives in the MHS FFA Log Cabin. The contents of the book can also be viewed in PDF form at this link: [Milton High School 100th Anniversary.pdf -big file slow loading-](#)

An MHS 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary documentary based on Milton's history can be viewed on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@miltonhighschool100anniversary>

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## Book Donation – *The Atlanta Century*



Thank you to Shana DeLuca for donating a book – *The Atlanta Century* – to the AOMCHS to be placed in our archives. The book includes newspaper articles from 1860–1865 and can be seen by visiting the Archives located at the Log Cabin in downtown Alpharetta. Pictured is Shack Lewis, AOMCHS Vice President, who accepted the book from Shana on behalf of the Society.

### *Did you know?*

The MHS FFA Log Cabin, home to the AOMCHS meeting space and Archives, originally sat on the Milton HS campus and now sits across the street on land that was once owned by Mr. Carroll Beavers. Mr. Beavers was a teacher, coach, and principal at MHS from 1953-1971. One of Mr. Beavers proudest accomplishments was serving as the leading advocate for obtaining funding to build the first gym at the original Milton HS. He was known for opening the school gym on Sunday afternoons to allow students to have a secure and wholesome recreational environment.



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 are 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>

### COUNTRY LIVING ARTS AND CRAFTS CAMP FOR KIDS at the FFA Log Cabin

Imagine this: The sun is shining, and the breeze is blowing into your house through windows that overlook the countryside, as you are making your own personal candle. Or maybe in your imagination you are sewing your own bag or hat. Or maybe you are even picturing yourself crocheting your own blanket! Well, if any of these ideas are already bringing joy to your heart, take the chance and make them your reality! You can do that this summer with our Country Living Kids Camp at our amazing Log Cabin! If the simple and hands-on lifestyle of cottage and country living is what you love, this is the perfect camp for you!

AGES 7–12

COST: \$200 Resident / \$300 Non-Resident

FEE: A non-refundable \$50 supply fee is due at the time of registration

#### Camp Day Schedule:

8am–9am: Early Drop-Off

9am-12pm: AM Class

12pm-1:30pm: Supervised Lunch Break

1:30pm-4:30pm: PM Class

4:30pm–6pm: Extended Care Pick-Up

**SESSION:      DATES:      TIME:      ACTIVITY#:**

**Session 1:      Jun 5–9      9am–4:30pm      29847**

AM Class: Country Living at Home: Handmade Candles, Floral Arrangements, Soaps, and More!

PM Class: Spare n Square: Crocheting Blankets for Charity Donation

**Session 2:      Jun 12–16      9am–4:30pm      29848**

AM Class: Explore Sewing and Textiles by Making Your Own Bag and Hat

PM Class: Once Upon A Time: Telling Stories Through The Crafts, Embroideries, and Artwork of Ancient Daily Life

**Session 3: Jun 19–23 9am–4:30pm 29849**

AM Class: Crafts of Ancient Civilizations: Terracotta Pots, Jewelry, and more!

PM Class: Once Upon A Time: Telling Stories Through The Crafts, Embroideries, and Artwork of Ancient Daily Life

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**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 ukes while campers learn how to collaborate with fun musical styles and rehears songs as a group and individually. *Students should purchase or bring a uke from home prior to camp.*

**Ages 7 to 12**

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

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

## Membership Programs Winter Recap

**Thursday, January 19, 2023 7 p.m. at The Mansell House**

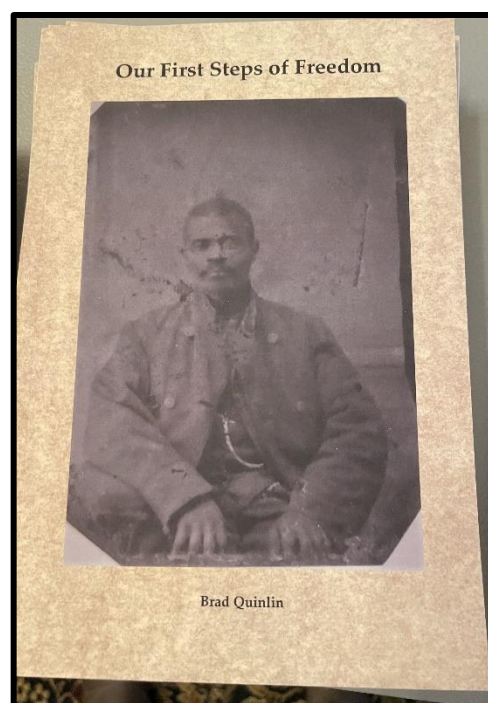
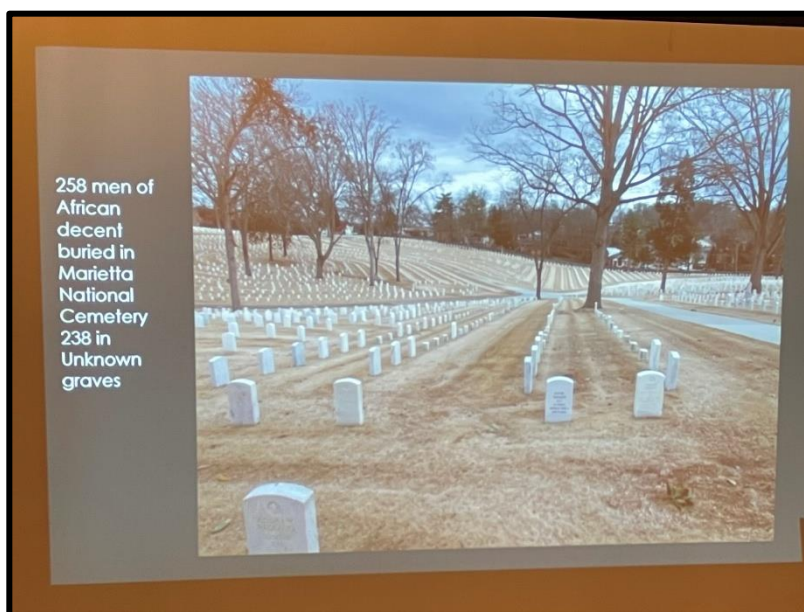
**AOMCHS member Dick Freeman performed a one man/one act play about the last five years of President Abraham Lincoln's life.**



Dick Freeman has been a Lincoln student and researcher for over 70 years and a John Hay actor since his retirement in 1991. In the monologue, Freeman plays the role of John Hay, one of Lincoln's two personal secretaries. The setting is in the Executive Mansion, now called The White House, and takes place on Good Friday, April 14th, 1865, the day Lincoln was shot at Ford's Theater. The play is the product of Freeman's extensive research of writings by others and includes diaries written by Secretaries John Hay and John Nicolay. John Hay, portrayed by Freeman dressed in a period tuxedo for joining Pres. Lincoln at the theater that evening, walks the audience through Lincoln's spiritual growth, testing, and conversations. The presentation concluded with a question-and-answer period and refreshments.

**Thursday, February 16, 2023 7pm at The Mansell House**  
**“Our First Footsteps of Freedom” by Civil War Historian Bradley Quinlin**

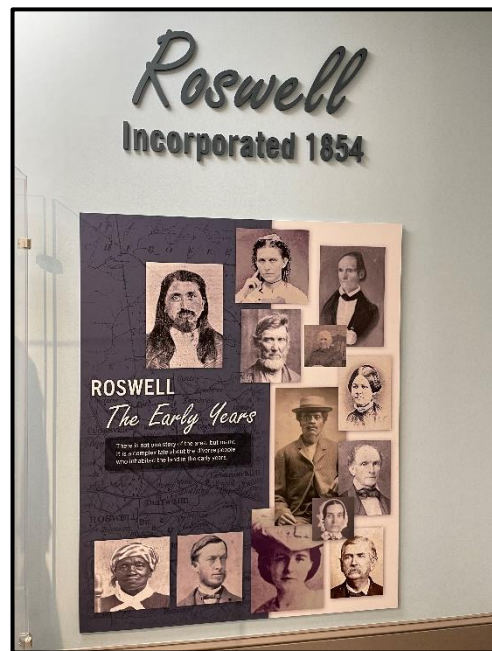
AOMCHS members enjoyed hearing from Brad Quinlin about his National Archives (and other places) research of facts and events regarding the Civil War. During the American Civil War, the Union Army enlisted units of men of African descent. Frederic Douglass wanted the United States government to do more. So, in March 1863, the U. S. Congress passed a bill which allowed for white Union regiments to enlist Africans. The bill provided for two Africans to be assigned to each company. These men held the title of “undercook.” They did simple chores for the officers. On May 8, 1864, General Sherman issued Order Number 17 and Special Order 62: “All noncombatants would become stretcher bearers when the army went into battle.” Brad told the story of the undercook’s and stretcher bearer’s bravery on the battlefields of the Atlanta Campaign and saving the lives of their white comrades. He also told the story of Emma Stephenson, a former slave who became a nurse in the Union Army in Georgia in 1864. Stephenson is buried in Marietta National Cemetery. Also buried at the cemetery are more than 250 men who served in the Colored Troops. Members enjoyed asking questions and socializing with Brad at the conclusion of his presentation.



## Thursday, March 16, 2023 Tour of the New Roswell History Museum



The AOMCHS was one of the first groups to visit this wonderful addition to local history. The Roswell History Museum is located on the second floor of the Roswell Cultural Arts Center at 950 Forrest St. in Roswell. It opened on January 11, 2023 with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The museum uses primary documents, artifacts, and original photographs to tell the stories of early inhabitants of the Roswell area, much like the Alpharetta History Museum. Members of the AOMCHS were greeted by Elaine DeNiro, archivist for the Roswell Historical Society, before browsing through the many interesting exhibits.



## Bicentennial Quilt

On March 16<sup>th</sup>, Ben Hollingsworth and Ed Malowney hung the Bicentennial Quilt that was created in 1975-1976 by The Nancy Norman Circle of the Alpharetta United Methodist UMW. The quilt was donated to AOMCHS by the current UMW. The quilt is now hanging in the stairwell to the Archives in the Log Cabin.



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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 “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 and houses the Society’s archives. For more information on becoming a member of the Alpharetta & Old Milton County Historical Society, please contact: Mary Lee, Membership Chair, at [marymar1@comcast.net](mailto:marymar1@comcast.net) 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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