



Winter 2023

HISTORY MATTERS

Winter 2023

Message from the President.....

Happy New Year!

January is the month in which people are making new year's resolutions. Consider making a resolution to get more involved with the Alpharetta & Old Milton County Historical Society. Consider attending more membership meetings, sharing your family history, doing a presentation to the membership about a topic that interests you, or volunteering some time to help out in the Archives. Consider joining and serving on a committee or serving as a chairperson or an officer. We need the help. Consider volunteering a few hours each month.



In February, we will appoint a Nominating Committee to recommend a slate of Officers and Committee Chairpersons to become our next fiscal year Board of Directors, effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. Speak with current Board members and especially Stephanie Andersson to learn how you can help in the Archives. If you want to speak with me about a specific project or how you can help, call me on my cell phone at 770-686-1971. I'm looking forward to another successful year.

~Ed Malowney

Upcoming 2023 Programs

Members and guests are all invited!

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

AOMCHS member Dick Freeman will perform 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. 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 14, 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, walks the audience through Lincoln's spiritual growth, testing, and conversation.

Thursday, February 16, 2023 7pm at The Mansell House

“My First Footsteps of Freedom” by Civil War Historian Bradley Quinlin

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: “That all noncombatants would become stretcher bearers when the army went into battle.” Brad will tell the story of their bravery on the battlefields of the Atlanta Campaign and saving the lives of their white comrades. He will tell the story of Emma Stephenson who became a nurse in the Union Army in Georgia in 1864.

Thursday, March 16, 2023, 10:30am

Tour of the New Roswell History Room

The Roswell Historical Society and the Roswell Archives and Research Library have added a new History Room. It is on the second floor of the Roswell Cultural Arts Center at 950 Forrest Street, Roswell, Georgia 30075. AOMCHS will be one of the first groups to visit this wonderful addition.

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. We may be offering a bus ride/tour. More information on this later.

Sunday June 11, 2023 2pm at The Mansell House

Installation of Officers and Picnic

From Our Past

This excerpt is taken from the AOMCHS newsletter, *Footprints Through Milton*, from March 1989

DID YOU KNOW.....

In 1916, the men of Alpharetta were using this “Recipe for Gray Hair” according to the *Milton County News*:

To a half-pint of water, add 1 oz. Bay Rum; a small box of barbo compound; and ¼ oz. of glycerine. Apply to hair twice a week until you have the desired shade. It will gradually darken faded gray hair and remove dandruff. It will not color the scalp. It is not sticky or greasy.

~William E. Spence, Sr.

Anyone want to try it out and report back? 😊

Happy Birthday!

January

1/2 Joanna Odom
1/3 Richard Plumer
1/5 Bill Pool
1/9 Myrna Gibson
1/11 Mary Lee
1/14 Janice Talluto
1/22 Carole Pool
1/29 Selma Merbaum
1/30 Donald Mitchell

February

2/4 Charles Russell
2/5 Jeannie Goodwin
2/9 Joan Hall Hellen
2/18 Ann Durham
2/22 Kimberly Roddy
2/25 Shack Lewis
2/25 Sandy Brennan
2/28 Thomas Blum
2/28 Roy Durham

March

3/1 Christina Blum
3/7 Joan Borzilleri
3/9 Patricia Bailie
3/18 Ellen Haynie

MARK YOUR CALENDER

One of our members, **Selma Merbaum**, will be 100 years young on Sunday, January 29th, 2023. To help Selma celebrate, the Historical Society is having an **Open House** on **January 29th** at the Mansell House from **1:00pm - 3:00pm**. Come by and wish Selma Happy Birthday and have a piece of birthday cake. If you so desire, bring her a birthday card as well. Happy birthday Selma!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Naveen Arcot Lakshman
Preeta Arcot Lakshman

Joanna Odom
Chanel Soars

Kimberly Roddy
Joseph Roddy

DUES

Reminder: Membership dues are paid annually and insure you stay on our roster and receive all society communication and news. 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 will no longer need to pay a membership renewal fee. Dues can be paid at our monthly membership meeting or by sending a check to:

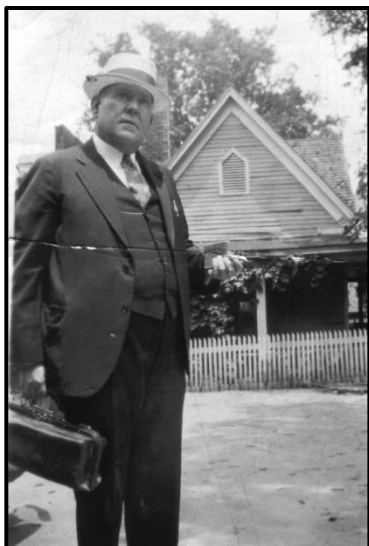
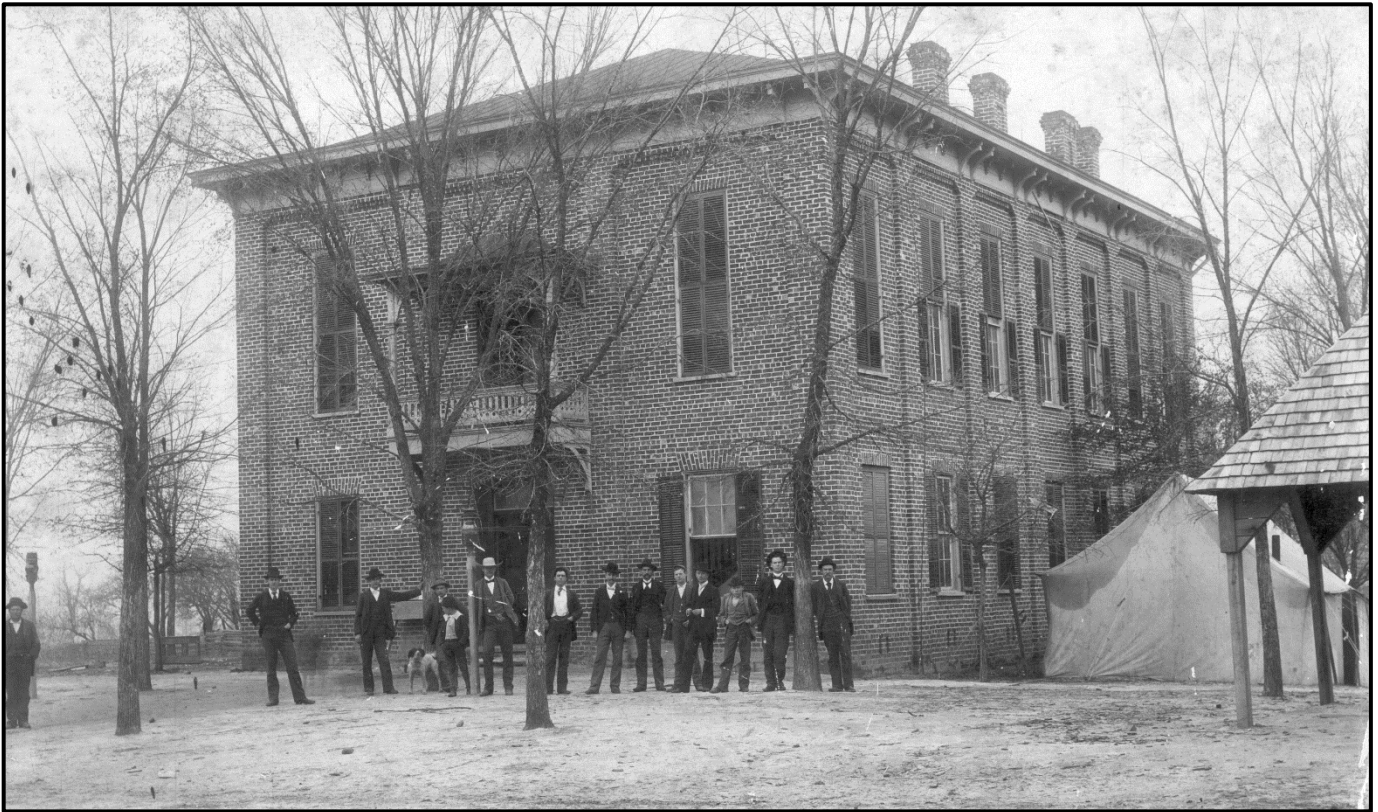
Membership Chair/Mary Lee
Mansell House
1835 Old Milton Parkway
Alpharetta, GA 30009

From the Historian

Milton County's Second Courthouse

Construction began on the second Milton County courthouse in 1878, 12 years after the original courthouse burned. The county treasury was depleted for several years after the Civil War ended so court was held in the Methodist Church for several terms. When the old Harris Hotel became vacant, court was held in that facility. The new two-story courthouse was built on the same site as the first at the corner of South Main Street and Academy Street. It was accessed by a central hall on each floor and was heated by four fireplaces. The jail was located in the rear of the first floor. Milton County was merged with Fulton County on January 1, 1932. Since there was no longer a need for the courthouse, Fulton County ceased maintaining it and by the time the building was demolished in 1955, it was no longer usable.

~Connie Mashburn



Dr. W. W. Phillips 1883 - 1963

Walter William Phillips grew up in the Hopewell community and began his working career as a saw miller. In his late twenties he quit his job and moved to Atlanta to attend medical school. After finishing school, he opened his medical practice on Roswell Street in Alpharetta. The doctor saw patients in a small one-room building behind his house. Dr. Phillips was known for his good humor and for prescribing a powerful red liquid medication that seemed to cure all illnesses. He also delivered over 3000 babies in the Alpharetta area.

~Connie Mashburn

Early Telephone Service

The first telephone in Alpharetta was installed by John B. Kimball in the Alpharetta Free Press office and was connected to the Laurel Mills, the Roswell Depot, and Seab Crowley's store, which all were located in Roswell. Obtaining telephone service required potential customers to run an insulated line from the main telephone line to their home. (Alpharetta Free Press 6 March 1925)

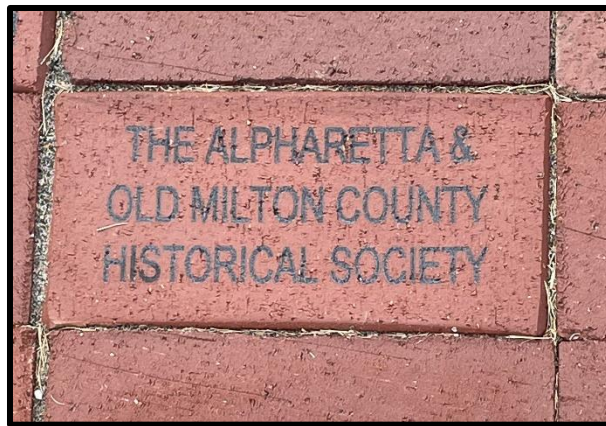
~Connie Mashburn



Milton High School 100th Anniversary

On October 14, 2022, Milton High School ended its 100th anniversary celebration with a ribbon

cutting at the new Centennial Plaza on campus. The plaza includes 75th anniversary bricks from the original campus plus new 100th anniversary bricks. It also includes the 75th anniversary plaque and 100th anniversary plaque given to the school by the 100th graduating class, the class of 2021. Jackie Angel, 100th Anniversary Chairperson, and former principal Phil Thomas "saved" the 75th anniversary bricks before the campus and



building was demolished, Travis Allen and a group of scouts physically moved the bricks to the

new campus, and Shack Lewis designed the layout of the plaza. Many Society members are proud graduates of Milton High School. The MHS FFA Log Cabin that the Society manages and maintains was originally built by MHS students and their FFA teacher/sponsor in 1935. The 100th

anniversary bricks include a brick donated by the AOMCHS.

~Jackie Angel

Out and About

WHAT IS HERE NOW? Mystery photo from last Newsletter

Congratulations! The image from the last newsletter was identified by **Ed Malowney**. This building was the last remaining structure on the property that was originally planned for development along Old Milton Parkway, just west of Hwy. 400. Kim King, known as the quarterback for Georgia Tech, began with construction of a project known as Prospect Park. The development began with a parking garage, and then for financial reasons, it was halted in 2008 and remained unfinished until 2012 when North American Properties purchased the property. The house in the photo was a small concrete block house that was abandoned. Someone spray painted "NOT FOR RENT" on the front of the house. (Who would want to rent it?)

In January 2013 Mark Toro, who developed Atlantic Station in downtown Atlanta, decided to build an "outdoor mall" with very high-end stores called Avalon. A part of the project that the city required was to

complete Westside Parkway in conjunction with the construction of Avalon. The project was finished in 2014, the same year as Alpharetta City Hall.

With what is there now, no one would believe that the property was once a nearly empty field with this simple block house on it.

February

THEN & NOW
produced by the Alpharetta Historical Society

2016


For 49 hours late in Feb. 1974, Reg Murphy, the editor of The Atlanta Constitution, was held hostage by William Williams. After managing editor Jim Minter paid the ransom of \$700,000, Murphy was released at State Bridge Road Exit on GA Hwy. 400.

At that time GA 400 ended at State Bridge Road (State Hwy.120) which was a two-lane road serving the rural community of Alpharetta. The date 1974 was engraved into the barrier railing. Sections of GA400 were divided and widened in 1981, 1989, and most recently in 2004.


State Bridge Road had houses and a few buildings along either side. The name was changed to Old Milton Parkway about 1990.

Between 2004 and 2008 a 106-acre lot was being developed on the northeast corner of Old Milton Parkway and GA400 until hit by the financial crisis of 2008.

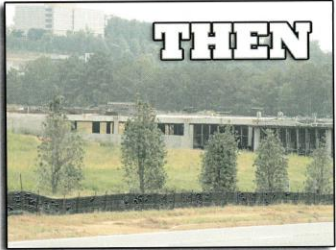
After 4 years of negotiation that project was taken over by North American Properties who built Avalon on the site. Phase II is now under construction.



THEN



NOW



THEN

New mystery:

This structure is in a very public place and is seen and passed everyday by many people on foot in this very large park. There are teams that play on the fields in the background when the weather is warmer. This is a temporary installation and may not be here in a couple of years.

If you know *what this piece is called and where it is located*, be the first one to email Ben Hollingsworth at bhollyart@comcast.net and you will win a full-color print of this image.



Member Spotlight – Stephanie Andersson

After moving to Alpharetta in 2016 from the Chicagoland area, Stephanie decided to join a local group and get more involved. After taking courses from the American Association of State and Local History as well as the Genealogical Research course from Boston University, she found herself as the amateur archivist at the Alpharetta & Old Milton County Historical Society. To take a step back, she's always enjoyed history and learning about her family genealogy. This started several years ago when she and her grandfather, J. W. Walker, would take road trips every year from Texas to Oklahoma to see his niece. Stephanie's grandfather passed away earlier this year just shy of his 100th



birthday. However, he instilled in her traits to live by: always be curious, think for yourself, and appreciate others, especially their life stories.

As for her profession, Stephanie is a University of Texas at Dallas alum with a Treasury Professional Certification from the Association of Financial Professionals. She's currently contracted with a Debt & Treasury Advisory and has been for several years. Her current residence is in the Shakerag area of Johns Creek. Stephanie works diligently on the Society archives and is a very valuable member and volunteer!

Wreaths Across America Update

On Saturday December 17th the Patriots of Liberty Chapter of the D.A.R. joined forces with the Alpharetta and Old Milton County Historical Society to honor 210 veterans who are buried in five local North Fulton cemeteries. Our volunteers placed wreaths at Alpharetta's Resthaven, Pineview, Old Big Creek, and Big Creek Primitive Baptist Church cemeteries and Johns Creeks' Pleasant Hill and Rogers-Bell cemeteries. In addition, our friends at the Roswell Historical Society placed 260 wreaths in the Old Roswell, Pleasant Hill Historical, and Mt. Oliver Baptist Church cemeteries. The Roswell Presbyterian Church participated by placing wreaths in its church cemetery and also in Roswell's historic Founders Cemetery. Joining our efforts for the first time this year, the Milton Historical Society honored veterans buried in Milton's Phillips Family Cemetery.

If you'd like to become an individual supporter of the Wreaths Across America movement for our 2023 wreath laying, there are several ways you can help. You can purchase wreaths for \$15 each, volunteer to lay wreaths, or volunteer to help with researching the names of veterans buried in other cemeteries. Businesses, churches, civic organizations, and other similar groups can also help. For information about how you or your organization can get involved, please contact D.A.R. Regent Jennifer Boren at jfboren52@gmail.com. The goal, to honor all our nation's heroes who are buried in North Fulton, is an ambitious one, but one with your help, we can definitely achieve.



~Pat Miller

Historic Preservation

Lewis-Manning House



On December 8, 2022, the City of Alpharetta Historic Preservation Commission, including AOMCHS members Bonnie Steadman (Chairwoman), Connie Mashburn, and Shack Lewis, unanimously voted to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for the Lewis-Manning House to be rehabilitated for use as a private residence. The renovation includes building additions such as a dining room/conservatory, detached garage, and a pool cabana. The applicant, Josh Cady, has hired architect Lou Oliver and builder Randy Schiltz of Tea Olive Builders for the renovation project.

The Lewis-Manning House, located at 40 Cumming Street, was built in 1895 for Col. Tom Lewis and later sold to the Manning Family in 1905. Lou Oliver provided the following information:

“The historic Lewis-Manning House, circa 1895, is identified as a “Queen Anne” structure, loosely associated with Medieval forms. Typical of the period, the 2-story home sports picturesque multi-gables rendered in wooden shingles, and topping a blocky, non-articulated brick shell. Windows are the normal 2/2 sash-type, of standard sizes. A “folk” porch (designed by a layman), presumably made of mail-order sawn scrollwork, posts, and rosettes provides the typical wrap-porch of the day.

The most striking feature of the building are the thick local brick walls, load bearing and more typical of earlier periods. One has to wonder if the rear portions of the building actually pre-date Victorian era constructions.

A “modern farmhouse” addition is evident on the rear of the building, typical of the early 2000’s time period. New white sash windows have replaced earlier ones. The applicant desires to make this home their permanent residence, upfitting the interiors, and making the building relevant to modern conveniences. The addition of artful and compatible structures will complement (versus parody) the original home, in keeping with historic precedents of garden follies and utilitarian structures. Additions are specifically a dining room/conservatory, a garage (or carriage house), and a pool cabana. The shutters and some of the woodwork on the front porch are not original to the style; thoughtful enhancements have been made to complement the original designs. New finishes will be in the mood of Victorian building complexes, i.e., rather earthy/smokey and somber. This will dramatize the materiality of the original brickwork. Gardens (to be designed by Brooks Garcia) will be authentic to the period with native and historic plant materials, period edging, and hardscapes.”

The property, already a shining star of downtown Alpharetta, will now be even more magnificent and lived in by a family that is committed to lovingly maintaining the home as designated by the Historic Preservation Incentive Ordinance.

~Shack Lewis

The McConnell-Chadwick House Is in Peril

In November, the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation named the McConnell-Chadwick house to its 2023 *Places in Peril* list. The home, located on Arnold Mill Road in the City of Milton, was built circa 1840 for Brigadier General Eli McConnell and his wife Savilla Charles Garrison, who were among the earliest white settlers in Cherokee County.



Today the home is threatened by both maintenance problems and suburban encroachment. A small group of concerned local citizens, including Pat Miller, President Emeritus of the AOMCHS, and members Joan Borzilleri and Bill Lusk, came together to research the historical and architectural significance of the house. They used this information to petition the Georgia Trust to place the home on its Places in Peril list. While placement on the list does not guarantee any funding for preservation, it does shine a spotlight on the property's precarious

situation. The hope is that by getting the word out about the property's needs and its historical significance, potential benefactors will step forward.

Larry Chadwick, the current owner, is the fifth generation of his family to own the house. He is very supportive of current efforts to rehabilitate and preserve the home and will be actively involved with the committee as it works to formulate a preservation plan.

The McConnell-Chadwick house is one of the oldest homes still standing in North Fulton. Bob Gamble, a retired architectural historian, believes that it may have been designed by Willis Ball, the renowned architect of Bulloch Hall and several other important homes in Roswell's Historic District.

The McConnell and Garrison families were important figures in the early development of Cherokee County. Gen. McConnell and his brother-in-law John Barksdale Garrison moved to the area while it was still Cherokee territory. They were among the founders of the town of Hickory Flat, and both were involved in the removal of the Cherokee. Gen. McConnell was employed by the U.S. Government to mediate disputes between the Cherokees and white settlers. McConnell, a farmer and slave holder, owned several mills in the Little River District. For a time he served as postmaster, and both he and John served multiple terms as sheriff. Later, Gen. McConnell represented Cherokee County in the State Senate, where he was an early advocate for the creation of Milton County. John's younger brother, Russell Davis Garrison, was married to one of Alpharetta's earliest citizens, Susan Key Camp. When Susan died in 1861, her father A.T. Camp, donated land to the new city of Alpharetta for her burial. She was the first person buried in what became Resthaven Cemetery, and Russell, who died three years later, was the fourth.

For updates on efforts to save this architectural and historical treasure, check future issues of this newsletter. In subsequent issues we'll tell you how you can get involved.

~Pat Miller



Classes taking place at the Log Cabin this Winter:

Crochet Basics & Beginner Projects with 31 Eager Hands

The purpose of this class is to present beginning crochet techniques and to guide the learner to completion of beginner projects. Classes taught by 31 Eager Hands, Chapter of Crochet Guild of America

Cost: \$15.00 (Resident)/\$22.50 (Non-resident)

Fee: A \$10 supply fee is due to the instructor on the first day of class.

Dates:	Day:	Time:	Activity#
Feb 2	Thu	10am–12pm	29439

Register at this link:

<https://www.alpharetta.ga.us/government/departments/recreation-parks/cultural-services/arts>

Congratulations!



(Jackie with MHS Principal Brian Jones)

On October 15, 2022, Jackie Angel, AOMCHS board member, was inducted into the Milton High School Hall of Fame. Jackie was on the MHS faculty for 31 years. She started in 1990 at the original campus, teaching there for 15 years and retired in 2021 after sixteen more years at the new campus in Crabapple. During Jackie's tenure she was the Graduation Coordinator/Senior Sponsor for 21 years, the Social Studies Department Chair for 16 years, and served as the MHS 100th Anniversary Chairperson, overseeing the last walkthrough at the old building that saw over a thousand people come through and culminated with the year-long 100th anniversary celebration. Jackie is the Secretary for the AOMCHS Board and is a Silver Dawg with the UGA Athletic Department.

Membership Programs

Fall Recap

October 2022 Meeting

On October 16th, Mary Jo Malowney, AOMCHS member and Autrey Mill Nature Preserve and Heritage Center docent, led members on a tour of the Autrey Mill grounds in Johns Creek including the Tenant Farmhouse, Summerour House, Farm Museum, Green General Store, and Warsaw Methodist Church. All these historic buildings (not including the Farm Museum) were moved from the local community to save them from destruction. The tour concluded with a covered dish picnic in their new North Pavilion.



November 2022 Meetings

A “Lunch and Learn” was held at the Log Cabin on November 1st. Members brought their lunch and watched the 1956 Disney movie *The Great Locomotive Chase* which tells the story of the Texas chasing, and catching, the General during the Civil War. The next day, AOMCHS members and others from the Alpharetta Adult Activity Center took a field trip to tour the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History and the Kennesaw Mountain Battlefield. The trip also included lunch at the Marietta Diner. Jim Howe, a local historian, accompanied the group and narrated the bus ride and the tours which included seeing the General, one of the two locomotives involved in “The Great Locomotive Chase,” the Kennesaw Battlefield, and an explanation of the strategies and tactics of the June 27, 1864 battle that saw the South stop (for a very short time) the Union Army advance on the mountain.



Musical Cabaret with member Shack Lewis and his daughter Sarah



Music was in the air on November 17th, when Shack and Sarah, singing and accompanied by Shack playing his electric keyboard, entertained members at the Mansell House with a variety of songs from the American Song Book. The songs included the *National Anthem*, *Happy Birthday*, *Keep on the Sunny Side*, *Georgia on My Mind*, *Night and Day*, *My Favorite Things*, *Sitting on the Dock of the Bay*, *Have I Told You Lately that I Love You*, and *Tomorrow*. Prior to performing each song, they provided the audience with the history of the song, year published, and interesting facts, such as *Happy Birthday* being “the most recognized song in the English language.” The evening was enjoyed by all and concluded with a standing ovation for Shack and Sarah. Shack hopes to have another cabaret soon with more musical acts that can serve as a fundraiser. Stay tuned.....



December Meeting

On December 4th, members and guests joined together in the holiday spirit for a luncheon at the Log Cabin. The cabin was decorated with a Christmas tree and holiday table decorations. The group enjoyed delicious traditional holiday food including turkey and dressing, green beans, cranberry sauce, and pecan pie. Best of all was the time spent with new and old friends.



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. If anyone would like more information on becoming a member of the Alpharetta & Old Milton County Historical Society, please contact: Mary Lee, Membership Chair, at marymar1@comcast.net or Ben Hollingsworth, Public Relations Chair, at bhollyart@comcast.net

Follow us on *Facebook* at Alpharetta & Old Milton County Historical Society

Website: www.aomchs.org

Information regarding handicapped parking at the Log Cabin can be found at

https://aomchs.org/current_cabin.pdf

History Matters, The AOMCHS newsletter, is published four times a year

Newsletter Editor: Jackie Angel, AOMCHS Secretary

Winter 2023 (January, February, March)