



Summer 2024

HISTORY MATTERS

Summer 2024

Message from the President...

Tonight, I watched the nightly news as I do almost every night, but tonight's broadcast was special. David Muir introduced viewers to some of the brave men, who in their youth, waded into Hell on the beaches of Normandy. More than 150,000 young men risked their lives that day to begin the liberation of France and other European countries. Several of the D-Day survivors David Muir interviewed were packing to travel back to France to participate in the commemoration. These men, now in their 90s and some over 100 years old, will receive well deserved heroes' welcomes. I hope these men know how much we all owe them.



I am a year one baby boomer. When I was growing up practically all my friends' fathers were World War II veterans. We didn't think much about what our fathers, and in some cases mothers, had done. They put the war behind them and set about building wonderful 1950s lives for us. As adults, my sisters and I often joked that we grew up in "Leave It to Beaver" land.

Tonight, ten years after his death, I'm thinking about my father, Sgt. Robley Henson Tatum. He was not present on D-Day, but he fought across Europe in the Battle of the Bulge. Just think, one day he was a student walking the campus at Georgia Tech, and a few months later he was sleeping in a fox hole in Germany.



*Sgt. Robley Henson Tatum
Dec. 21, 1922 - Jan. 17, 2014*

Daddy seldom mentioned the War, but occasionally he would tell us one of his war stories. One that I remember vividly was about a Christmas Eve when he was lucky enough to find shelter in a barn. Even inside the barn it was freezing. Daddy said he took out his fountain pen to write my mother a letter only to discover that the ink had frozen in his pen.

Years later my parents kept my son Kirk after school and during the summer. Daddy talked to Kirk about the War, and Kirk would tell me the stories. One day I asked Daddy, "Why didn't you tell us all the stories?" His answer... "You were girls. I didn't think you'd be interested." He didn't know how wrong he was.

Thank you, Daddy. I'm so proud to have been raised by an American hero. If you have veterans in your family, don't wait until it's too late to let them know how proud you are of them.

*~Pat Miller
AOMCHS President*

In Memoriam

Sue DeVore Rainwater

One of Alpharetta's most admired ladies, Sue DeVore Rainwater passed away on April 16, 2024. Sue was a long-time member and supporter of the Historical Society. Her obituary is listed below. A link to a video that Sue recorded several years ago for the Alpharetta Stories Project is listed below her obituary. In it she talks about growing up in Alpharetta. Sue will truly be missed.

Obituary

Sue DeVore Rainwater passed away peacefully in her home on April 16, 2024. Sue was born and raised in Alpharetta, GA and was a lifelong member of the Alpharetta First Baptist Church. She attended Milton High School where she was crowned homecoming queen in 1959, her senior year. Sue married Lamar Rainwater in 1961 and they raised their two sons in downtown Alpharetta.

After working for a couple of companies in Atlanta, Vantress Farms and Ison Finance, Sue became a full-time employee of the City of Alpharetta in 1979, accepting the position as City Clerk. Sue served 4 mayors and countless council men and women during her 32 years in that position. As her career developed, she continued to advance her accomplishments, gathering a number of degrees and certifications from the University of Georgia to allow her to best serve her beloved city. Sue served the city for almost 50 years, including her volunteer time with the planning commission. After retiring in 2011, Sue was honored to receive the Lifetime Service Award from the Georgia Municipal Association. Sue also spent many hours during her career and after supporting and serving the Alpharetta Historical Society, a cause and organization very dear to her. Sue spent her retirement years traveling and laughing with friends and family and occasionally spoiling her three grandchildren.

Sue was preceded in death by her husband, Lamar (1999); her son, Brent (2007); and her brother, Donald (2007). She is survived by her son, Kevin (Jenni); her three grandchildren, Haley (Jon), Maisie and Jake; her great-grandson, Bradley; her three nieces, Tara, Tena and Tammy; in-laws, cousins and dear friends, all of whom she cherished and loved deeply.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Alpharetta and Old Milton County Historical Society. The address for Zelle donations is: alpoldmilton@gmail.com. To donate by check, the address is: Alpharetta and Old Milton County Historical Society, 1835 Old Milton Parkway, Alpharetta, GA 30009.

Alpharetta Stories Project:

<https://vimeopro.com/mjmpro/alpha-stories/video/334283705>

Upcoming Programs – Summer 2024

Membership programs will resume in August. Be on the lookout for emails announcing the program details. Have a great July and we'll see you in August!

Happy Birthday!

July

7/2 Lynna Lee
7/5 Curtis Boren
7/14 Bob Price
7/16 Barbara Lathem
7/24 Albert Stovall
7/27 Jennifer Lewis
7/29 Don Borzilleri



August

8/2 Collin Fluke
8/2 Alan Martin
8/3 Lauren Hill
8/6 Allen Cronan
8/7 Ed Malowney
8/8 Brian Lee
8/9 Norman Broadwell
8/10 Daniel Wright
8/13 Nancy Wright
8/22 Nina Samples
8/24 Cathy Bills

September

9/2 Ralph Lathem
9/6 Ben Hollingsworth
9/6 Sheila Pennebaker
9/7 Linda Russell
9/11 Marie Andersson
9/12 Linda Spruell
9/19 Joy Ross
9/22 Martine Broadwell
9/23 Jeff Dufresne
9/29 Bill Lusk
9/29 Sandra Hofmann
9/30 Jim Spruell

Welcome New Members!

Bobby Wills
Greg Wills

Archives

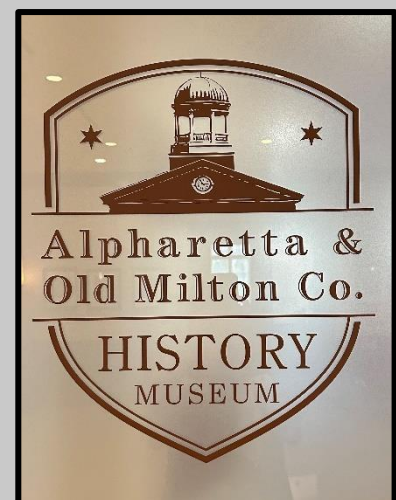
Rummage Sale

We are excited to announce that our rummage sale was successful! We raised \$500 for archival supplies. Unsold items were donated to **Hope for Women and Children** and **N. Fulton Charities**. The success helped both the Society Archives and our local community. Thank you to all those who donated, purchased, and volunteered!

Alpharetta and Old Milton Co. History Museum – Kiosk Update

We have good news regarding the kiosk at the history museum in City Hall. We have been working on adding archives items that can be accessed by the public. We've recently uploaded Harriet Shortley photos and will soon be working on the Bailey-Johnson reunion. The PastPerfect site can be searched at the following link:

<https://alpharettahistory.pastperfectonline.com/RandomImages>



News

We are growing rapidly and very happy about it. Our newest member of the archival team is Laura Best, a historical society member with deep roots (Teasley Family) in the Alpharetta and Old Milton County area. Her family connection was unknown to her until she began volunteering with the Archives team. She is also a member of the DAR.

We have a summer intern, Maggie Curl, who is attending the University of Mississippi. She is focusing on learning the archival process and procedures. Maggie wanted to work with the Archives Department to learn more about the community in which she lives. She is passionate about historical fiction and biographies. We are blessed that she is working tediously with Laura Best on our restoration and inventory project.



Pictured left to right: Maggie Curl, Laura Best

Upcoming, we are partnering with the Fulton County Schools Archives and South Teaching Museum on their exhibit featuring the history of several high schools in Fulton County as they transitioned from racially segregated schools to integrated ones from the 1950s-1970s.

Stephanie “Marie” Andersson has put in over forty hours working on the Providence Church digitized files and archival storage prep. The first entry was from 1834. Members of the Providence Church gave a donation for the services that were provided.

New hours, phone number, and research appointment procedures

Archive Department hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 10:30AM to 2:30PM

We are closed on national holidays and the full weeks of Thanksgiving and Christmas

If you are searching for detailed information regarding subject or family files and artifacts, we will be happy to assist upon availability, but please know that we are volunteered based. We kindly request that if your research is extensive to please make an appointment.

Appointments are made upon request. Please give us 24-hour notice.

Contact information for the Archives during our operating hours (see above):

aomchsarchives@gmail.com

Phone number: 770-231-7158

Archives Donation Wishlist – *The Archival Team is grateful for all the support given by our community members!*

- Mylar sleeves
- Copy paper
- Archival grade COTTON copy paper
- Gently used/like new rolling office chairs
- Note card letterhead stationery for thank you notes
- Subscriptions to Family Tree, Ancestry, AASL
- Cash/check or gift card donations for Gaylord Archival/Box Builder supply
- Cash/check donations for supplies above and general supplies

Experience the history of **Alpharetta**



Through
our **Museum**
and online interactive
story Map.



Alpharetta City Hall • 2 Park Plaza • 1st Floor

alpharetta.ga.us/arts-culture

Log Cabin

We've been doing some Spring cleaning around the Log Cabin. Thank you to Jennifer and Curt Boren who pressure washed the outside areas and painted the lamp post black. Thank you to Jim Spruell for hanging the porch swing. In July, the city is expected to cut down a dying tree and get rid of some tree stumps. Meanwhile, the cabin is alive with children attending various camps this summer and the cabin was even used as a movie set for a few days in June!



Photos courtesy of Jennifer Boren

From Our Historian

Alpharetta Drug Store

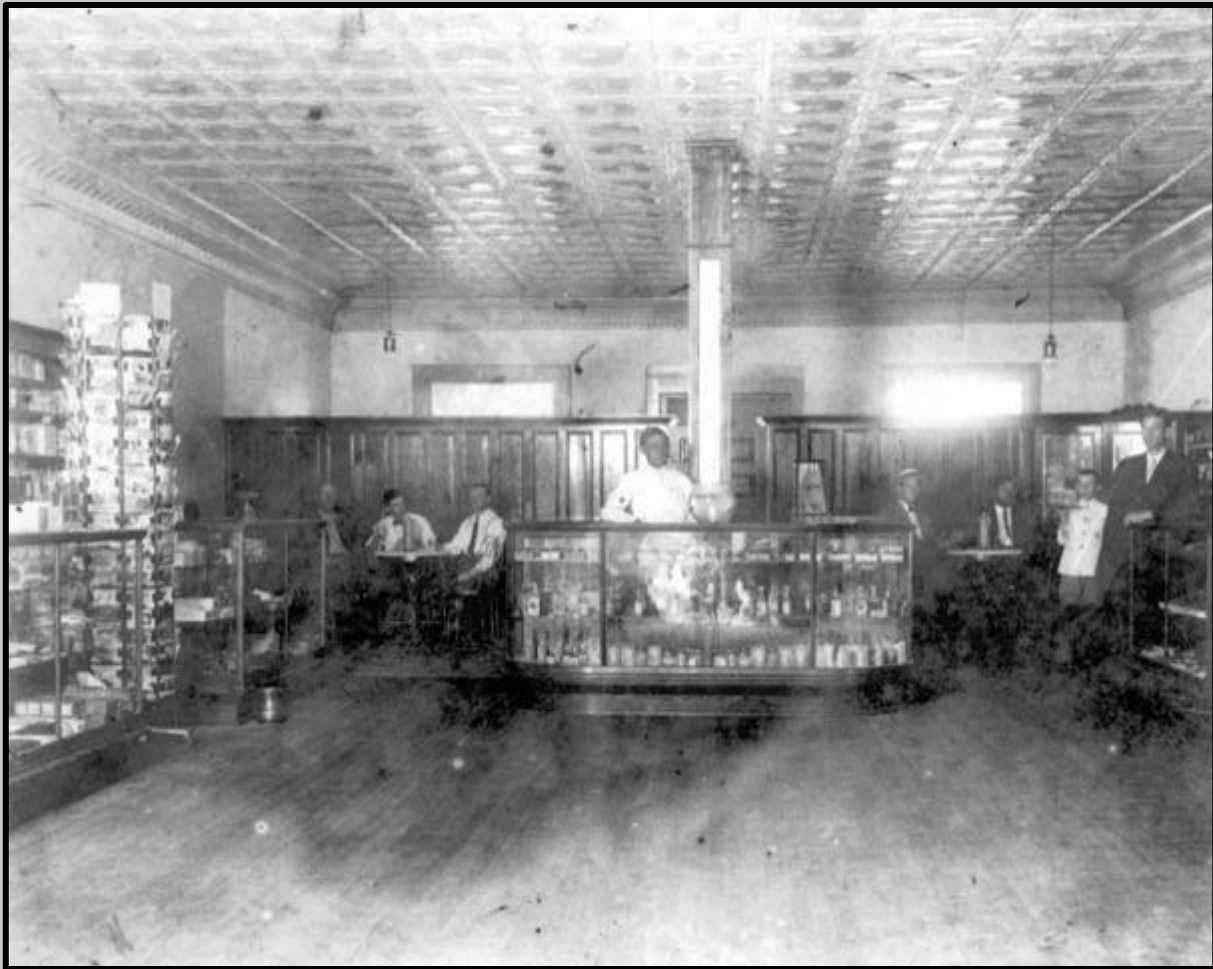
There were no pharmacies in Alpharetta until around 1960, but there was a drugstore/soda shop that operated from the 1910s until 1959.

The soda fountain offered only drinks and ice cream at first, then starting in the 1940s, sandwiches became available. A grill was installed in the 1950s so that hamburgers, hot dogs, and grilled cheese sandwiches could be added to the menu. A juke box and pinball machine were added in the 1950s.

Non-food items offered for sale included patent medicines, toiletries, small household goods, magazines, writing instruments, paper goods, and small hardware items.

The business went through several owners and name changes, but for 50 years it was never moved from the 3 South Main Street building shown in the circa 1925 photos. The building still stands and is now the home of the Butcher and Brew restaurant.

~Connie Mashburn



Interior of the Alpharetta Drug Store circa 1925

Photo provided by Clayton CameraCraft and Donald Devore



*The Alpharetta Drugstore was located on the west side of South Main Street circa 1925
Photo provided by Clayton CameraCraft and Donald Devore*



The Fourth of July—also known as Independence Day or July 4th—has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution. On July 2nd, 1776, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later delegates from the 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence, a historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson. From 1776 to the present day, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with festivities ranging from fireworks, parades and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues.

~History.com

Member Spotlight

Lynna Lee

Lynna Lee serves on the AOMCHS board as the Membership Chair.

Lynna was born in Indianapolis, Indiana. Approximately every 3 years her parents moved with her and her younger sister and brother to Los Angeles; Columbus, Ohio; back to Indianapolis and LA; and to Charlotte, North Carolina. Lynna

attended the University of North Carolina and earned a BS in Radiologic Technology and also attended The Ohio State University earning an MBA. She's worked in several medical related positions – as an X-Ray Technologist, Healthcare Software Consultant, and Medical Device Project Manager. Currently, she works part time as an Activities Coordinator at an assisted living facility where she leads Bingo, exercise class, and sing-alongs. She also works as a substitute teacher at local high schools where she often imparts a Mrs. Lee's Life Lesson and keeps the classroom volume to a low roar.

Lynna met fellow Buckeye, Brian Lee, at The Ohio State University. They have been married for 32 years and have 4 children who are in their twenties. The children were raised on a hobby farm with various animals including horses, hogs, goats, dogs, rabbits, chickens, and turtles. The whole family had fun with their private petting-zoo, walking and running through the woods, hosting end -of-school year, holiday, prom, and sports parties, and being close to nature on the end of a gravel road.

Lynna and Brian love to travel and shared their passion with “the kids” traveling to Old Faithful in Yellowstone National Park, the White House, US Capitol building, Smithsonian museums in DC, the colorful walls of the Grand Canyon, the cable cars and Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco, Disney World in Florida, the Statue of

Liberty in NYC, the Maid of the Mist boat tour at Niagara Falls, and also the Eiffel Tower, Louvre, and Mont Saint Michel in France to name a few highlights. Lynna and Brian recently traveled to North Dakota accomplishing her goal of trekking to all fifty states and she now has a new goal of visiting all seven continents!

Lynna and Brian enjoy history and attended several tours and talks in the area before Lynna learned that the AOMCHS needed help with updating the membership roster and decided to volunteer! She

likes learning about what life was like in simpler times and how pioneers persevered in the face of adversity like drought and poverty with their dogged determination and hard work.

Lynna is a member of the Alpharetta Methodist Church, the Alpharetta Garden Club, and she's active at the Adult Activity Center at North Park where she attends yoga and line dancing classes. Say hello to her when you see her out and about in our community!



Out and About in Alpharetta with Ben Hollingsworth



The house featured as the *Out and About* for the last issue of the newsletter is located at 122 Marietta Street, just around the corner from Pure Taqueria on Roswell Street. It doesn't look at all the same now as in the photo because it has been converted into a hot new restaurant called TBB. Every day you will find it filled with folks who enjoy socializing and conversation with their friends.

The rest of the story is that it is now owned by the Sedgwick Restaurant Group who also own multiple restaurants in North Fulton like Pure Taqueria, 7 Acres BarNGrill, The Union, and Made Kitchen, as well as others in the Atlanta area. Chris and Michelle Sedgwick are the owners of this very successful group of restaurants. The newest of these is TBB, which stands for Theo Brothers Bakery, on Marietta Street. The area around Pure on Roswell Street has become the home of this restaurant group. Pure opened in 2005 and the Rainwater house located at 119 Roswell Street next to Pure was renovated and now serves as headquarters for the Sedgwick Restaurant Group (SRG.) Michelle operates Theo Brothers Bakery in Crabapple and sells their bread at the Farmer's Market on Saturdays as well as managing TBB.

A very interesting project of Chris' is the garage located beside TBB that he has turned into a museum of sorts. It is full of 'garage' memorabilia (signs, tools, etc.) and home to Chris' collection of Kombis (those VW buses that have a pickup rear in place of the bus).

There were no winners who identified this house in Alpharetta so let's try this one.

Where are these Crows located? This is a relatively new sculpture located in a public space very close to downtown Alpharetta. Can you tell me where it is located?



Send your answers to Ben at bhollyart@comcast.net

Get the answer right and you'll get a "shout out" in our next newsletter!

~Ben Hollingsworth

Membership Programs

Spring Recap

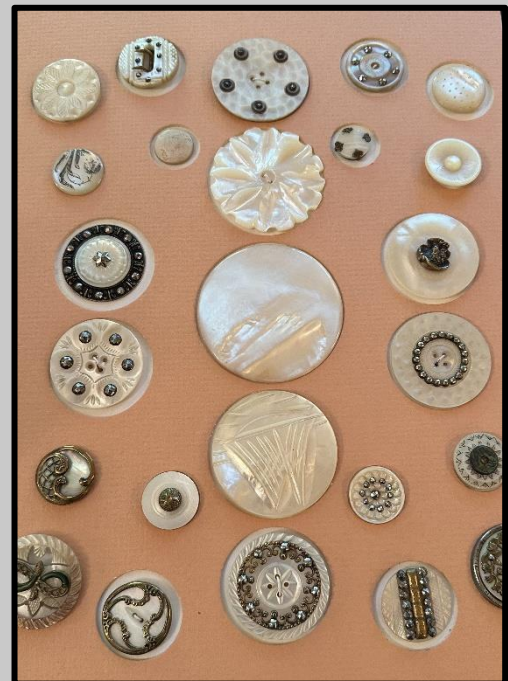
April 2024

All About Buttons

Debbie Johnson, presenter



On Thursday April 18th, the society members, along with guests from the Chattahoochee Evening Stars Quilt Guild and the East Cobb Quilters' Guild, enjoyed a presentation on the history of buttons and button collecting by Debbie Johnson, Co-President of the Peach State Button Club. Debbie has been collecting buttons for 25+ years. She has three rooms in her house filled with buttons (approximately 9000) displayed on special cards. Her collection includes buttons made from materials as diverse as celluloid and vegetables. She has attended local, state, and national button conventions where she said, "there are women who will push you away to get a button they want." In the world of collectibles, buttons are the third most popular. Debbie also pointed out that, informally, most women in previous generations had a "button box." She also told us that buttons have been used since the 16th century. Debbie brought many of her beautiful button display cards and passed them around. Many people in the audience had questions and comments as they admired the buttons.



May 2024

Music Extravaganza

Shack Lewis, Presenter

Our Alpharetta & Old Milton County Historical Society May program was a blast! We enjoyed delicious refreshments while enjoying art from the recent “Paint the Town” exhibit at the Alpharetta Arts Center, then our own VP Shack Lewis entertained and enlightened us with music starting in the 1700s and going through the 1970s. He not only performed the songs, he also provided the historical background. He woke us up with “Reveille” on the saxophone and then proceeded through “Autumn Leaves,” “Mind Your Own Business,” “Hey Goodlooking,” “Mama Told Me Not to Come,” “Ain’t No Sunshine,” “You’ve Got a Friend,” “Sittin’ On the Dock of the Bay,” and “Georgia on My Mind.” AND, the tip jar proceeds (\$135) will benefit local preservation efforts by the Historical Society.



June 2024

AOMCHS Board Installation and Annual Picnic/BBQ

Featured Guest: Chris Lagerbloom, Alpharetta City Administrator

It was a beautiful day at the Mansell House for an outdoor picnic. Thanks to Hospitality Chair Jennifer Boren and a few member volunteers, the porch and grounds of the Mansell House provided a lovely setting with beautiful, blue hydrangeas all around us. The picnic started with Chris Lagerbloom, the Alpharetta City Administrator, being introduced by AOMCHS secretary Jackie Angel. Jackie was Chris's government teacher at Milton High School in the early 90s. After some fun stories from both Chris and Jackie, Chris read the oath to the newly elected board members who each agreed to abide by the oath. After the board was installed, we enjoyed delicious food and fellowship on the beautifully decorated porch.



2024 - 2025 AOMCHS Board Members

Pictured left to right: Jackie Angel, Secretary; Bonnie Steadman, Preservation Chair; Chris Lagerbloom, Alpharetta City Administrator; Jennifer Boren, Hospitality Chair; Janice Talluto, Trustee; Laura Best, Program Chair; Lynna Lee, Membership Chair; Kim Roddy, Treasurer; Ben Hollingsworth, Publicity Chair

Absent Board members: Pat Miller, President; Shack Lewis, Vice President; Connie Mashburn, Historian; Marie Andersson, Archives Chair; Kim Manning, Trustee; Ed Malowney, Trustee and President Emeritus



Photos courtesy of Jackie Angel and Jennifer Boren



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 ptatumiller@gmail.com

Upcoming Camps at the Log Cabin

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

Summer Camps & Classes @FFA Log Cabin

ACOUSTIC JAM FEST! with Metro Music Makers

Jam out with us this summer in the FFA Log Cabin! This is the perfect setting for an acoustic version of our rock band camp. We will be rockin’ out on ukes and acoustic guitars. Campers will learn how to collaborate with fun musical styles and will rehearse songs as a group. Campers must bring their own ukulele or acoustic guitar, a water bottle, and snacks. Family members will be invited to a performance on the last day of camp.

AGE: 7 – 12 years old

COST: \$195 Resident / \$292.50 Non-Resident

DATE:
July 8 – July 12

DAY: TIME:
M-F 9am-12pm

ACTIVITY #:
32162

Bailey-Johnson Reunion and Documentary

On Saturday, June 22nd, the Alpharetta and Old Milton County Historical Society and the City of Alpharetta co-hosted a reunion at the Log Cabin for former students of the Bailey-Johnson School. In addition to some fun and fellowship, attendees were offered an opportunity to share their memories of the school.

Filmmaker Mark Maloney was on hand to interview the former students, whose stories will become part of a documentary on the historic school and the community which grew up around it. The documentary, funded by the City of Alpharetta, will premiere later this year. Many thanks to our Log Cabin neighbors, Alpharetta Masonic Lodge #235, for allowing Mark to use their lodge as a filming venue. Thanks also to Bailey-Johnson alumni Charles Grogan and Sandra Taylor who organized the reunion.

Attendees enjoyed helping to identify people and locations shown in a collection of photos recently donated to our archives by Marilyn Teasley. Marilyn's late husband Ed grew up in the Bailey-Johnson community. Some of his photos, many of which were taken at local social and church events, will be used in the upcoming documentary. The entire Teasley collection, including documents and additional historic photographs, will soon be available to researchers in our archives, located in the basement of the Log Cabin.

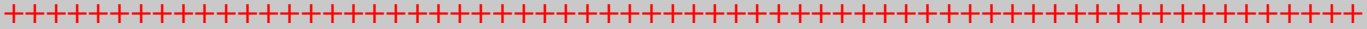
~Pat Miller



MEMBERSHIP DUES

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



*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 for families to celebrate the important events of life such as Births, Weddings, Graduations, Reunions, Showers, Anniversaries, Birthdays, Christenings, and more. The AOMCHS also manages the MHS FFA Log Cabin on Milton Avenue which also can be rented for events. The Log Cabin houses the Society’s archives. **For more information on becoming a member** of the Alpharetta & Old Milton County Historical Society, please contact: Lynna Lee, Membership Chair, at lynnajlee@gmail.com or fill out the membership application form at <https://form.jotform.com/223174503583151>*

- Follow us on *Facebook* at the Alpharetta & Old Milton County Historical Society page
- 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 quarterly. Previous issues can be found on the Society website at www.aomchs.org
- ❖ Content provided by members of the AOMCHS
- ❖ Newsletter Editor: Jackie Angel, AOMCHS Secretary

Summer 2024 (July, August, September)



HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!