A few of our members enjoying the Member Appreciation Picnic last Fall!

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Message from the President

Happy New Year to you and yours

Wow - - 2020 and with that another decade is behind us. As a Historical Society, it always intrigues me to think about how future generations will look back and tell our stories as we are doing now from past generations. With technology, our digital footprint, and today’s ever changing environment, things will be very different. We might like Facebook and Instagram now, but what we post and share today lives forever on a digital platform. Will there be Elaine’s in the future? What about Cemeteries, or Hembree Farms? All this seems too daunting to think about, but as with every New Year, we often pause to think about the past and take a moment to plan for the future.

One year down as I like to say and another before me as your President. As I look back over this past year I have seen great strides across our entire organization. “Momentum“ as I called it, but I’m not remised if I didn’t say there were challenges along the way as well. As I get ready to meet with our Board and start planning for 2020, I hope we can maintain the positive momentum and learn from what worked and what didn’t. We had an invigorating set of programs and pop up tours last year and I can tell you 2020 will be no different. We had our first member appreciation picnic with a lot of fanfare and positive feedback.

Looking forward to what is planned for 2020. Our National Register recognition for Old Roswell Cemetery is planned for February 2020 as is the makeup date for Beyond My Stone. We are also in hopes to start the new stone wall project in 2020, which had been on hold from the city- fingers crossed. As mentioned in our annual meeting, new opportunities are being presented to bring life back to Hembree Farm, I am excited for the future of this site as well. Elaine received several editorial and City recognitions over the past year that really highlighted the value and importance of the Research Library & Archives. If you know Elaine, 2020 will not disappoint.

I have been accused of having a too lofty set of ideas and I will own that, but I see what this organization can be, I can see what the next decade could look like, but It can’t be done in a silo, it can’t be done by repeating history and it surely can’t be done alone. We need engaged and active members, we need an engaged and active City, and we need an engaged and active Board- this is MY 2020 commitment to you.

Kevin Bamford- President
Roswell Historical Society.
2020 Calendar

Upcoming Events -- Mark Your Calendars!

January 19: 3PM-5PM RHS 2020 Officer & Board Induction Ceremony. Join us for refreshments and the induction of the 2020 board of directors and committee chairs. Roswell Convention and Visitor's Center, 617 South Atlanta St., Roswell, GA.

February 6, 2020 Historical writer and researcher Michael Hitt will discuss the History of Early Roswell. 7 PM Roswell Adult Recreation Center*, Multi-Purpose Room; Doors open at 6:30 PM

February 29 5:00 PM Beyond My Stone (postponed from October 2019): Pleasant Hill Cemetery, behind Roswell Town Center, corner of Holcomb Bridge Rd. and Alpharetta Hwy. Join us in hearing the stories and honoring the African-Americans buried at this historic cemetery. Inclement weather date is March 14, 2020.

March 5: Gerald Andrews will discuss his book A Mill Village Story. 7 PM Roswell Adult Recreation Center*, Multi-Purpose Room; Doors open at 6:30 PM

March 28, 2020 Old Roswell Cemetery Cleaning Day. Join us to learn the proper cleaning technique for gravestones and see our restorers at work!

April 2: Pop up Tour of State House and Capital. No evening meeting. Watch for details.

May -- TBD. Watch for details

Not a member? Join us now!

RHS Membership Information

Unless noted otherwise, General Meetings are held at The Roswell Adult Recreation Center

830 Grimes Bridge Road, Roswell, GA 30075.

Follow us on Facebook for the latest news and updates!
Announcements

City of Roswell HPC (Historic Preservation Commission)
The HPC meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month. See the City meeting calendar [here](#). To see what’s on the agenda

Support RHS as You Shop at Kroger and Amazon!
Select RHS as your charitable organization when using your Kroger card. Simply select us by following these instructions.

**Kroger**
1. Go to [Kroger.com](http://Kroger.com)
2. You will need to sign in or register (first time users). Have your Kroger card handy...
3. Under your account settings (might appear as Account tab or click your name to open your account), scroll to the bottom and select the Roswell Historical Society as your Organization. You can also enter our organization number 57384 to find us faster.
4. Save your selection

**Amazon Smile**
Go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and you will be prompted to select a charitable organization from a list of eligible organizations.

You can change your selection at any time. To change your charitable organization.

**Don’t forget to renew your membership!**
Click [here](#) to renew online or mail your check to PO Box 1636, Roswell, GA 30077. Membership information and levels can be found [here](#).
Here are some photos of *Mittie's Room Christmas at Bulloch* celebrating Southern author Rick Bragg. Vignettes interpret themes from his writings about his family in Alabama. Helpers were Jennifer Todd, Florence Anne Berna and Kitty Gold. Vintage kitchen items were loaned by Carmen Ford and Kelky Barkley. Cotton mill items were loaned by RHS Archives.

Submitted by Sherron Laawson, Chair, Decorative Arts
Make new friends but keep the old! Our membership director has been hard at work engaging new business partners and we encourage our membership to patronize these establishments (and be sure to thank them for supporting RHS when you do!). Can’t remember them all? Visit our Business Partner Page on our website to learn more about them.

Welcome to Our Newest Members - Fall 2019!

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Hembree Farm Project is Receiving Some Public Attention!

Horseshow Bend Garden Club

I was invited to speak to the Horseshoe Bend Garden Club on November 11, 2019. The Club was very kind and interested in the work we have been doing and our plans for the Farming Camp with the Alpharetta Program. My presentation included pictures of Hembree Farm at different stages of moving and restoration as well as some of the pictures included in Laura Drummond’s Assessment Report from 2009 that portray some of the construction of the home. We received a Grant Donation of $500 for the Hembree Farm Restoration Project for which we are very grateful!

President Vickie Fudurich sent me the following message:

“I know our members will be glad to hear about the restoration project of the Hembree Farmhouse (circa 1835) which is one of the oldest in north Fulton County. Our club supports gardening educational programs so I was pleased to know that the Roswell Historical Society is considering restoring the site as an 1830's style garden illustrating old farming ways.”

Vickie Fudurich, President, Horseshoe Bend Garden Club

Corn Planter Donation

Also in November, a gentleman named Tim Worley contacted the office. His family used to rent part of the Hembree farm from the owner and while cleaning out his parents’ things, he came across a mule drawn corn planter. He wanted to know if we would like it back for the farm. I called him and we had a wonderful conversation about his father farming the land that is now Hembree Grove Subdivision. He has some wonderful stories that I hope we can document about our Hembree Farm. I accepted his offer of the planter and we hope to receive it from him in the near future.

Submitted by Judy Meer, Chair, Hembree Farm Focus Project
Historic Preservation Awards

Each January the Roswell Historical Society presents awards recognizing outstanding historical preservation projects in our city. This year the award was presented on Sunday, January 19th.

LuAnn and Mark Brown was honored with the Outstanding Restoration or Rehabilitation Award. This award recognizes restorations of historic structures to be used as residences. The Browns were chosen for their restoration of 868 Thomas Street. This home, built in 1913, was for almost a century the home of the Martin family. When the Browns restored the home much of the original exterior remained intact. Architect J. C. Chi designed the new addition and garage attached to the back of the house. This lovely home was featured last fall on our annual Tour of Homes. I hope that many of you got the opportunity to see and enjoy the Browns’ lovely home.

The Distinguished Service in the Field of Preservation Award recognizes individuals or businesses that make significant contributions to preservation projects. This year’s honoree is Juliette Johnson. From the moment Juliette joined the Historical Society she has given generously of time and talents. Most of you know that she served several terms as President during which time she lead a successful campaign to bring the organization back to financial stability and successfully lobbied the City Council to increase funding for the Archives and the Old Roswell Cemetery. Her contributions to the Cemetery Project include: updating the cemetery’s listing on the Find-A-Grave website, serving as a section leader to clean markers and teach others how to do so, and researching, writing and performing in the Beyond My Stone cemetery tours. Juliette has given countless hours working in the office, helping people with their genealogical research, and encouraging her friends and neighbors to become members. She continues to be an asset to the Historical Society and the City of Roswell.

Presentation of Awards

Outstanding Restoration or Rehabilitation Award

Presented in Appreciation to LuAnn and Mark Brown

This award recognizes the preservation of an historic structure to be used as a residence. The Roswell Historical Society is pleased to recognize the restoration of your home located at 868 Thomas Street. This historic structure was built in 1933 as a parsonage for the Roswell Methodist Church.

Presented by The Roswell Historical Society January 19, 2020
Distinguished Service in the Field of Preservation Award

Presented in Appreciation to Juliette Johnson

The Roswell Historical Society is pleased to recognize your many contributions to historic preservation in our city. Under your leadership the Society was returned to financial stability, allowing the Society to once again take a leadership role in identifying and carrying out historical preservation projects.

You successfully lobbied the Roswell City Council to substantially increase City funding for the Old Roswell Cemetery and for the Roswell Archives. You made information on burials in the Old Roswell Cemetery available to researchers by placing this information on the Find-A-Grave website. You served as a section leader to clean and restore the cemetery; you researched, wrote, and performed in the Beyond My Stone cemetery tours, and you helped with the research necessary to place the Old Roswell Cemetery on the National Registry of Historic Places. These are but a few of your many accomplishments, all of which have made the Historical Society and our City stronger.

Presented by The Roswell Historical Society January 19, 2020

Distinguished Service in the Field of Preservation Award

Presented in Appreciation to Pat Tatum Miller

The Roswell Historical Society is pleased to recognize Pat Tatum Miller's many contributions to historic preservation not only in our City but that of the Greater North Fulton area as a whole.

Pat has worked tirelessly not just for the Roswell Historical Society, but as President of the Alpharetta Historical Society, and is a founding member of the Johns Creek and Milton Historical Societies. She also has made her dream of a North Fulton History Alliance a reality.

For the Roswell Historical Society, Pat regularly volunteers in the Research Library & Archives, serves on both the Hembree and Cemetery Committees, thus supporting all three of our major focus projects. Pat also currently serves as the RHS Historical Marker and Awards Chair.

Pat Tatum Miller serves quietly, while working hard to preserve local history throughout North Fulton County. Her family is one of the earliest families in the area and she diligently researches and shares their stories while enriching and adding to the History of that which she calls home- North Fulton County.

Presented by The Roswell Historical Society January 19, 2020
Winter 2020 RHS Cemetery Newsletter

On December 14, the Roswell Historical Society was honored to host Wreaths Across America for the fifth year. Wreaths were laid on every veteran’s grave in three cemeteries, Pleasant Hill Historic Cemetery, Mt. Oliver Baptist Cemetery, and Old Roswell Cemetery. RHS members and Sally Tom Kolb laid an additional wreath at the gravesite of Pvt. James Kelpin, CSA within the grounds of the Chattahoochee Nature Center.

Cecilia Fly coordinated this event and organized the ceremony held at Old Roswell Cemetery at noon. Veterans groups, the AAVBA and the NFVFW participated in the ceremony. The Roswell High School Chorus sang the National Anthem while the RHS JROTC provided the Color Guard. Thanks to our veterans who laid the ceremonial wreaths for each branch of service. Thanks to veteran and professional photographer Ron Sherman who once again took outstanding pictures. Thanks to veteran Roger Spitz who concluded the ceremony with the playing of TAPS.

Our restorers were busy as they repaired walls, copings, and monuments. We have currently repaired an amazing 212 features at Old Roswell Cemetery. Thanks to Chaunce Braun, Ray Bonoan, Carl Moore, and Chipper Gillen for their hard work. Thanks to all of you who have generously donated to fund these repairs.

Beyond My Stone at Pleasant Hill Historic Cemetery, October 19, 2019

Well, we were all set to perform and share some amazing stories from the African American leaders and residents of early Roswell. As you know, a torrential rain forced the postponement of this event. The good news is that we’ve rescheduled and are ready to present this program on Saturday, February 29. This will be the culmination of the Roswell Roots Festival. Please mark your calendars. Tickets will be available online again at www.roswellhistoricalsociety.org. Inclement weather date: March 14.

Fall Cleaning Event, October 26, 2019

I’m thinking of applying as a rainmaker. Inclement weather forced us to cancel this event. Many thanks to Archie Richard who was the coordinator for this event. Thank you as well to our 45 volunteers who were all set to go. The Spring Cleaning Event will be held March 28 with an inclement weather date of April 18.
Roswell High School Cemetery Visit

On November 21, RHS teacher Nancy Moeller brought her students for a quick tour of Old Roswell Cemetery. This is the third year for her Roswell History class to visit. Nancy wrote a curriculum for a course on Roswell History using the resources of the Archives. Thanks to Elaine DeNiro and her archival volunteers for assisting Nancy. She got her commercial driver’s license so that she can drive a school bus and take her students on weekly field trips to historical sites in the area. Kudos to Nancy!

Horseshoe Bend Garden Club

Later that day, members of the Horseshoe Bend Garden Club planted 100 historic daffodils at ORC. These daffs are already poking their heads up in the McDerment plot and around the new historic marker marking the site of the original log cabin Mount Carmel Methodist Church. The HBGC generously donated these daffodils and has funded other landscape projects as well. They also helped lay wreaths during Wreaths Across America. They are one of 84 civic organizations that has supported the RHS Cemetery Project since its inception in 2014.

Eagle Scout Project

On November 25, Eagle candidate Cooper Hansen brought his troop and his neighbors to Old Roswell Cemetery. Cooper’s Eagle project was to complete the recording of the cemetery for Billion Graves. He was well-organized and his team finished quickly, covering the entire cemetery. Billion Graves is an app similar to Find A Grave. These apps add to the online databases available to assist people researching their family histories. Well done, Cooper and team!

City Cemetery Improvement Fund

This fall water access was installed on the north side of ORC. There will be four access points with spigots. Thanks to Jay Reisinger, Landscape Architect for the City of Roswell and Matt Travian and his team at All About Irrigation.

Upcoming Events:

February 21, Methodist Cemetery, Roswell will be presented at DHR Historic Preservation Department for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places

February 29, Beyond My Stone, Pleasant Hill Historic Cemetery, time TBA Rain date: March 14

March 28, Spring Cleaning Event, Old Roswell Cemetery 10 AM to noon Rain date: April 18

Submitted by Janet Johnson, RHS Cemetery Project Chair
The Research Library and Archives will be closed on January 20th (Martin Luther King Jr. Day) and February 17th (Presidents Day).

Collection Spotlight
Fraser Family Letters

Simon Fraser (1801-1881) Envelope from letter, dated March 17, 1859

Simon Fraser was born in Scotland in 1801. He came to New York with his parents in 1805. He moved to Liberty County, Georgia when he was 21 years old. In 1823, he married Miss Rebecca Daniel of Liberty County. Although Fraser was an ordained Methodist preacher, he never pursued a career in the church. Rebecca died in 1835 after the birth of their fifth child. Fraser moved to Roswell, Georgia in 1839 to become the bookkeeper for the Roswell Manufacturing Company. In 1840, he married Miss Matilda Bradford. They had seven children. His home was on Fraser Street between Alpharetta Highway and Norcross Street. He died in 1881 and is buried in the Old Roswell Cemetery.

The collection contains correspondence from 1841 to 1898. The earlier letters are from Simon Fraser to family members. In his letters, Fraser discusses events in Roswell, Georgia and religious issues. The last letter written by Fraser is dated April 28, 1879. The collection contains correspondence from other family members after his death.

Gary Fraser, great-great grandson of Simon Fraser, donated the collection to the Roswell Historical Society/City of Roswell Research Library in 2019.

Submitted by Elaine DeNiro, Research Library & Archives Chair
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