

Stone Mountain Historic Society, Inc.

P. O. Box 71, Stone Mountain, GA 30086-0071

JANUARY 2011 NEWSLETTER



Greetings from your president. . .

Happy 2011 to all our SMHS members and friends!

A new year and some new plans and ideas! But first we need to say thank you from us all to Frank Luton, SMHS President for the last four years, for his dedicated service and guidance. We have come a long way. Thank you also to Frank for making the transition to a new Board so comfortable for this new president!

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 27th, 7:00 p.m. at the Wells Brown House. The speaker will be Barry Brown, co-author of "Crossroads of Conflict: A Guide to Civil War Sites in Georgia". Please join us for what promises to be a very interesting meeting (details elsewhere in the newsletter). Hot dogs and fixings will be served at 6:30 and a short business meeting will precede the main event of the evening.

Our last event, the Wells-Brown Christmas Open House was wonderful – very well attended and very much enjoyed! The house looked beautiful – on the outside thanks to / David Lowe and the Morning Glories Garden Club of Smoke Rise, and on the inside thanks to Rusty Hamby and his team of volunteers. Thank you to all of these people, and an especially big thank you to Kathryn Wright, who coordinates all of the Wells Brown activities.

Welcome to our 2011-2012 SMHS Board! Returning members are JoAnn Florence, our secretary; Kathryn Wright, our Wells Brown House and Grounds Chairperson (and now Vice President of that area); Rusty Hamby, Vice President of membership; Mary Beth Reed, and Pat Miller. New members are Jim McCurdy, our new Vice-President for Programs; Naomi Thompson, Stone Mountain Park Memorial Association, will take on our website as one of her responsibilities; Richard Mailman will be heading up our fundraisers; Jan Leakey, though already on the Board, will now take on the duties of Treasurer; and Jenny Hall-Busch, the caterer and cook-extraordinaire amongst us. This is an enthusiastic and dedicated team, and we are looking forward to a very productive and enjoyable year.

We also welcome our 2011-2012 Advisory Council, under the chairmanship of Frank Luton. Returning members are George Coletti, Mack Ivey, David Leakey, Charles Nash, Nan Nash, Jack Rhodes, and David Thomas. New members are Kim Cumbie, Gary Peiffer, and Jack Sartain. All these people are very knowledgeable in one or more areas and are willing to share their expertise with us.

We look forward in this coming year to further improvements to the house and grounds. We have come a very long way since the house was donated to the Society, thanks to the dedication of the volunteers amongst us. If you still need a New Year's resolution how about deciding that this is the year where you volunteer to help at Wells Brown. There will be workdays – which will be announced in good time – and I promise they will be fun!! Make this your Society and be proud of your membership in it!

We will be holding some exciting fundraiser events, and there will be at least two members-only events – just to say thank you to our members for all their support. Membership is on the increase, and now is the time to join for this year. Tell your friends and neighbors! You can also get a joint membership with the DeKalb Historic Society and enjoy their events too. Within days of adding this to my membership I had received my first email from them for their next event this month – about Stone Mountain!

I look forward to seeing you all on Thursday, January 27th. Don't forget to come in time for the hotdogs!

—Averil Bonsall, President



The secret of health for both mind and body is not to mourn for the past, worry about the future, or anticipate troubles but to live in the present moment wisely and earnestly.

—Buddha

Wells Brown House News

Lots of "thank yous" for our members. Amy Stokes heard our pleas for bookcases and brought one to our House. The Morning Glories Garden Club decorated the outside of the House for our Christmas Party. David Lowe created beautiful wreaths for our doors. Rusty Hamby decorated the inside of the House. Lorene McCall picked out and delivered the most beautiful poinsettias for the party and they are still in great shape. Chef Michael McCurdy created a fantastic feast for our Christmas Party. We also hosted a party for the Visitor Center Volunteers.

The cold weather has killed off our geraniums and ferns but we replaced them with evergreens and pansies - now if we can just keep the squirrels out of the pansies.

The patio in the side garden has been completed with the remaining bricks from the sidewalk in the Village. We hope to receive one of the old benches from the City and then complete the "bridge over the river dry." The bridge will enable us to leave the roots of some trees unharmed.

—Kathryn Wright

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

John and Carol Ann Culpepper

JoAnn Scott Herndon

Laura C. McCravy

Smoke Rise Morning Glories Garden Club

A big "Thank You" to Jenny Hall-Busch

A couple of years ago Jenny decided to write a series of cookbooks as a fund-raising project for some of the Stone Mountain institutions. The second of these, "The second cookbook - Brunch and Munch" - is ours! All proceeds from sales will go to the Stone Mountain Historic Society.

Jenny writes that she is a "small potatoes" caterer and has been at it since 1978. She has raised two extraordinary daughters, continues to teach piano and volunteer for the community. She writes a cooking column for the neighborhood newspaper, the *Smoke Signal*, and has catered weddings, showers, retirement and holiday parties and receptions. All her recipes are ones that she has actually cooked.

Her wonderful sense of humor is evident throughout her books, and with mouth-watering recipes such as "Eggs Benedict Casserole with Asparagus and Ham", "Blueberry Cream Cheese French Toast", "Sausage and Pear Quiche", "Bran in the Pan Coffee Cake", "Apricot-Pecan Scones", she makes it all seem very easy and a lot of fun!

There are still a few books available. Thank you, Jenny!

Stone Mountain Historic Society, Inc. 2011-2012 Officers & Board Members

President: Averil Bonsall, 770-498-6990
VP Programs: Jim McCurdy, 770-639-0775
VP Membership: Rusty Hamby, 770-469-9801
VP Wells-Brown: Kathryn Wright, 404-299-2498
Secy-Newsletter: JoAnn Florence, 770-695-4130
Treasurer: Jan Leakey, 404-735-7018

Board Members

Jenny Hall-Busch, 678-406-0555
Richard Mailman, 770-318-2556
Pat Miller, 770-879-1918
Mary Beth Reed, 770-498-4155, ext.128

Stone Mountain Trivia . . .

Q: What is the name of the historic African-American cemetery in Shermantown?

October Newsletter Answer: Stone Mountain half dollars were issued in 1925. They sold for one dollar. Profits from sales were used to help fund the carving on Stone Mountain.

Recipe of the Month. . .

These are from Jenny's 2nd cookbook "Brunch and Munch." A double treat!

Cheesy Apples

2 (16 oz) cans sliced apples, *not* pie filling
1 stick butter
1 cup sugar
1/2 pound processed cheese, shredded
(you can buy it that way now...hooray)
3/4 cup flour

Grease a 9x13 casserole. Dump in drained apples and set aside. Mix butter and sugar well. Add cheese and flour and mix well. Sometimes it glops up, but that's ok. Spread or drop it over apples and bake at 350 for 30-40-minutes. Another of those sides that would be great with plain ham for brunch.

Cheesy Pears

This recipe is exactly like the one above except you use one huge can of drained pears. You could even vary the recipe by using half pears and half peaches. Anything with butter, sugar and processed cheese on it will taste like heaven anyway...with the possible exception of, say, liver.

JANUARY PROGRAM January 27th, 7 PM, Wells-Brown House

Our speaker this month is **Barry Brown**, co-author of *Crossroads of Conflict: A guide to Civil War Sites in Georgia*.

The impact of the Civil War on Georgia was greater than any other event in the state's history. Approximately eleven thousand Georgians were killed and the state suffered more than one hundred thousand in total casualties. Georgia was extremely influential in this nation's most tragic conflict, and the war touched every corner of the state.

Crossroads of Conflict covers 350 historic sites in detail, bringing the experience of the war to life. It includes battlefields (major and minor), POW camps, hospitals, houses, buildings, bridges, cemeteries, and monuments. The war experiences of all Georgians, not just soldiers, are addressed within the guide's informative text, and a detailed chronology and maps of each region as well as insert maps of urban areas are included.

Barry's presentation will focus on sites in local and surrounding areas. A limited supply of *Crossroads of Conflict* will be available for those wishing to purchase.

Come early at 6:30 for Hot Dogs and all the fixins!