



The CCHS **Newsletter**

Carroll County Historical Society P. O. Box 1308 Carrollton, GA 30112 APRIL 2010

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

THURSDAY, APRIL 29 6-9 P.M.

SUNSET HILLS COUNTRY CLUB

It's that time again - when we, as a group connected by our common interest in Carroll County's history, meet to visit, dine, and recognize three special people or groups of people for their unique efforts in preserving our county's history. This year's award winners are truly outstanding.

Dr. Matt McCord, Bowdon veterinarian, has revitalized Bowdon's downtown area by taking a complete street of warehouses and manufacturing buildings and turning them into usable places of business, dining, and other facilities. All the while, he has maintained the beauty and character of old brick and wood.

Shana and Ben Brown have done a great job in preserving and restoring the W.F. Brown house on Cedar Street, pictured below. W.F. Brown served in the Georgia House of Representatives.

The City of Bowdon has succeeded in getting its first Historic District recognized by and accepted on the National Historic Registry. It was a joint effort by the City, the Bowdon Historical Society, and a five-member Historic Preservation Commission.

Congratulations to each of these! We are so proud to honor you at the Awards Banquet!

Our speaker for the evening is Doug Mabrey, whose presentation is entitled "McIntosh's 1825 Treaty of Indian Springs: the Beginning of the End of the Southeastern Tribes". The presentation covers new insight into Chief William McIntosh and the Creek removal. It also deals with how the 1825 treaty and McIntosh's murder set in motion events of not only national but international importance.



Tickets for the buffet are \$25.00 per person. All checks should be made payable to Carroll County Historical Society, P.O. Box 1308, Carrollton, GA 30112. **Deadline for signing up is Friday, April 23.** Judy Schulenberg, 770-832-6724, is in charge of reservations.

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS TODAY!

A BRIGHT, BRIGHT DAY!

by Blair Trehitt

As these lines are being composed, the sun is just about to brighten the day. On last Monday, April 5th, the setting sun could not have been brighter as it shined on a small group of 'friends'. They were of course, in one way or another, Friends of the Carrollton Depot, many of whom have been long-time Historical Society Members. The group was assembled to celebrate the rebirth of a beleaguered, 100+ year old friend, which was soon to be liberated from its shroud of several colors of Chinese manufactured, and decaying plastic tarps.

A record setting temperature didn't seem to bother those interested souls that crowded around the open door, behind which, in the World War Two era, housed a fire engine. The same room would have once housed train passengers... waiting to board a 'Central of Georgia' schedule North to Chattanooga or perhaps beginning a trip South toward Florida.

Soon, out came the Chamber's obligatory and celebratory red ribbon and scissors, which were almost as long as Shirley Stallings' 'ribbon holding' grand daughter, Blair, was tall. Carter Clay cut the ribbon while the camera shutters clicked. The photo in the next day's Times-Georgian did not fully capture all of

those, like City Manager Casey Coleman, Brad Tuggle, Russell Lynn, Sam Lenaeus, and others who could not all be in the front row, but to whom is owed so much for their hours of effort and leadership.

These 'necessary' civic procedures were symbols of a feeling of extreme pride being felt by those who had pushed for this day for nearly 20 years, many of whom who had labored since the organization of the 'Save Our Station' group. This column unfortunately cannot list all of the hundreds of names of those that have written letters to editors, helped clean up the debris left by a seemingly uncaring railroad...with its threats to "tear down our station", the 'sign holding' civic groups that have been pictured in front of the building, and the newspaper reporters who have written so many articles in an effort to help move things forward.

It must be said here, however, that had it not been for the leadership and the 'push' of those in the Historical Society, like Virginia Almon, Gwyn Chesnut, and Myron House, along with the determination of several City administrations, the dedication to the Depot's preservation by at least two recent

City Managers including Coleman and Danny Mabry...the outcome would have been, not the prospects of a historic jewel, but of a pile of bricks.

Just wait Carrollton. Someday you will see something that will almost make you cry. You will view a building that will draw adults to a museum, children to a model train display of national recognition, be a haven for railroad enthusiasts, have a first class meeting area, and a very large exhibit area... that will enhance the City's coffers more than most can presently conceive. Someday you might even see a shining Tourist Train beside the depot, disgorging eager visitors... with money. If you feel that it is now time for the Society and the 'Friends' to 'pat themselves on the back'...fine, but I suggest that this is just the beginning. There is much work to be done to support the City's effort, both in volunteerism and in dollars...but for now, many, many thanks for all of your efforts, and a big 'thank you' to those that have gone before...on whose shoulders recent efforts have been built. ©



The Last of Carroll County's Folk Characters

by Gwyn Chesnut

I had a call this month from Donna Lewis in Monroe, Georgia asking what we knew about her ancestor, Dr. Meda Walter Hancock-Lewis. Although I had never heard of him, I found that Dr. Bonner had written several pages in his book "Georgia's Last Frontier" about Dr. Hancock.

There was a doctor Meda W. Hancock who received a medical diploma in 1908, but died soon after. Lewis married his widow and altered her husband's diploma to read "Hancock-Lewis". They lived at Mt. Zion for a time, but in 1921 moved to Cedar Street in Carrollton where he used his house as a hospital. He had quite a number of run-ins with the law; and in 1924, he served a year on the Carroll County chain gang for violating a narcotics law. Loyal friends put him back in business, but records show that he was also indicted at one time or another for murder, abortion, larceny, bigamy, embezzlement, assault and battery, practicing medicine without a license, impersonating another (he was listed under three aliases), and illicit use of narcotics.

Loyal friends put him back in business again, but he left the county for other states out west. In 1947, he died in a shabby boarding house in Birmingham, and his career had become a legend. Although it is difficult to separate truth from legend, Lewis apparently combined practical psychological genius with narcotics in the treatment of disease. The Carroll County Medical Society tried to discredit his credentials in 1916, but the population supported him because of his winning personality and the low fees he charged for his services. To learn more about Dr. Hancock-Lewis, read pages 177-181 in Dr. Bonner's book "Georgia's Last Frontier".

Four Authors, Three Books, One Book Signing Event!



Tim McWhorter
author of
Southern Bedtime Stories



Suzanne Durham and Emma Elaine Dobbs
authors of
Carrollton Then & Now



Myron House
author of
Carroll County, Georgia Pioneers

Join us for a reception honoring the publication of these books related to Carrollton and Carroll County by University of West Georgia authors.

Friday, April 23 • 5:00-7:00p.m. • UWG Alumni House

Sponsored by Ingram Library's Penelope Melson Society

On Friday, April 23rd, Ingram Library's Penelope Melson Society will sponsor a reception at the University of West Georgia's Alumni House honoring the publication of three books related to Carrollton and Carroll County by University of West Georgia authors. Suzanne Durham and Emma Elaine Dobbs, authors of *Carrollton Then & Now*; Myron House, author of *Carroll County, Georgia Pioneers: Sketches of Early Settlers of Carroll County, Georgia and their Descendants*; and Tim McWhorter, author of *Southern Bedtime Stories* will sign their books from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. For further information, contact Catherine Hendricks at chendric@westga.edu or (678) 839-5337.

**LOOK FOR DETAILS IN NEXT NEWSLETTER
ABOUT.....**

**THE SUMMER PICNIC
JULY 1**

**CCHS BOARD MEMBERS
FOR 2010**

President	David Perry
Vice President	Mel Steely
Secretary	Rebecca Fordyce
Treasurer	Meredith Barr
Membership	Susan Vandiver
Newsletter	Janice Ivester
Programs	Doug Mabrey
Archives	Gwen Chesnut
Nominating	Judy Schulenberg

Put it on your calendar!

**ANNUAL AWARDS
BANQUET
THURSDAY, APRIL 29
SUNSET HILLS COUNTRY
CLUB
6-9 P.M.**

**NEXT BOARD MEETING -
THURSDAY, JUNE 3
6:00 P.M.**

SEE US ON THE WEB
WWW.CARROLLCOUNTYHISTORY.ORG

Carroll County Historical Society
P. O. Box 1308
Carrollton, GA 30112

