



# *The CCHS Newsletter*

Carroll County Historical Society

P. O. Box 1308

Carrollton, GA 30112

FEBRUARY 2012

## *Carroll County Historical Society's Meeting Thursday March 1st 6:30 pm the Foster Room of the Neva Lomason Library*

### ***A History of the Carrollton City Schools***

Join us as Rita Gentry, the unofficial historian of the Carrollton City Schools, helps celebrate the quasiquicentennial (125<sup>th</sup>) anniversary of the school system. Here are some interesting facts in the school system's history:

- (1) The first graduating class in 1889 had only two members.
- (2) Carrollton High School was segregated by gender until 1911.
- (3) Edith Foster's mother was a teacher and principal for more than twenty years.
- (4) Horace Cole was the volunteer coach of the first football team in 1920 but basketball, baseball and track predated football at the high school.
- (5) Ed Dodd, creator of the Mark Trail comic strip, and J. Willis Hurst, cardiologist to President Lyndon Johnson, were Carrollton City School graduates.

Travel back to 1886 when the school system was authorized by the Georgia General Assembly and watch its history unfold over the next 125 years.

*Thursday- March 1, 2012- 6:30 p.m.*

*Please renew your membership and pay dues for 2012. We need you!*





2012 Membership

CARROLL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Individual Membership  
Family Membership

\$20 per year  
\$30 per year

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\* *Email addresses are important for receiving bulletins and announcements that we will be sending out concerning the Society activities between newsletters.*

Membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_ In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\*\* Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*\* *Donations to the Society will be used to fund preservation projects in Carroll County. All these donations are Tax Deductible.*

Members receive our Bi-Monthly newsletter "The CCHS Newsletter"

Mail to: Carroll County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 1308  
Carrollton, Ga. 30112

Historical Society Contacts

Membership Director: Susan A. Vandiver (404) 271-1038 or susanavandiver@yahoo.com

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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## The Battle of Yellow Dirt Church Cemetery

This battle was not a reenactment, it was the real thing—a battle of political correctness vs. the trustees of a small church over Confederate Battle flags. Wayne and Walter Webb visited their ancestor in Yellow Dirt Church Cemetery, landlocked in 2,500 acres of Georgia Power Plant Wansley on the border of Carroll and Heard Counties and discovered that seven flags had been removed from cemetery graves including their ancestor Private J.P. Shellnutt of Co. G 40th Georgia. They found that Georgia Power, following a company policy of removing symbols their management considered divisive, removed the flags. The SVC National Heritage Defense Committee, along with Harry Lyle, Eric Tolbert, James and Pam Tolbert of the Haralson Invincibles Camp #673 of Waco, Georgia, Ernest Blevins, member of Forrest's Escort Camp #1239 of Villa Rica, and Georgia Division Historian, and life member of Secession 4 (in Charleston, South Carolina), the Webb brothers and other descendants visited the cemetery and replaced the missing flags. During this visit an eighth Confederate Veterans Administration stone in a small nearby cemetery was found. Georgia Power returned to the cemetery and removed the flags a second time.

A Georgia Power spokeswoman stated that they did remove the flags a second time and would continue to remove them if replaced again. A spokesman added that they would allow access to the cemetery, but "enforce our company policies regarding anything that may be placed there."

Removal of the flags was illegal since the cemetery is located on property that they do not own. It is held in trust by church trustees Walter and Wayne Webb who still hold the original documents. In 1971 the Yellow Dirt Baptist Church was sold as part of 2,500 acres in southern Carroll and northern Heard counties to build Plant Wansley. The ca. 1872 church still stands and is used once a year by a local congregation led by Walter Webb.

The two acre Yellow Dirt cemetery was excluded from the sale. Proof of cemetery ownership is clearly recorded by the Heard County Tax Assessors, Heard County deed office, and all letters and legal correspondence since 1971 with Georgia Power.

Cemeteries are protected by the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A.) 16-7-21 (2010) 16-7-21. (3) (e) which states a "person commits the offense of criminal trespass when he or she intentionally defaces, mutilates, or defiles any grave marker, monument, or memorial to one or more deceased persons who served in the military service of [Georgia] the Confederate States of America or any of the states thereof, or a monument, plaque, marker, or memorial which is dedicated to, honors, or recounts the military service of any past or present military personnel of [Georgia] ...or the Confederate States of America or any of the states thereof if such grave marker, monument, memorial, plaque, or marker is privately owned or located on land which is privately owned."

Georgia Power researched the deed and surveyed the property of the cemetery. During the process Blevins, a historical researcher, also conducted a deed search to verify the statements of the Webb brothers and property tax records already uncovered. Both searches revealed the fact that Georgia Power does not and has never owned the cemetery. The Webb brothers, as trustees of the church, are the rightful stewards of the cemetery.

Wayne Webb reported they met with Georgia Power at the church and were given a deed of limited access to the property. The brothers still want an apology, copies of documentation on Georgia Power's research and a promise that ownership and access is settled.

*(The complete article in "The Civil War Courier" written by Ernest Everett Blevins and William "Billy" Bearden is online at [www.civilwarcourier.com](http://www.civilwarcourier.com) February 2012 Issue.)*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Congratulations to **Gwyn Chesnut** on her appointment by Governor Nathan Deal to the Board of the Georgia Historical Records and Archives.*

*Next CCHS Board Meeting will be 6:30 p.m. March 15th at the Curtis Marlowe Perry House*

*April General Meeting will be 6:30 p.m. April 5 with **Joe McGinnis** reviewing his book "The Last Zinnia."*

*Thank you to **Judy Schulenburg** who has served faithfully on our board for eight years. We're certainly going to miss her!*

*Welcome to new board members, **Joe McGinnis** and **Martha Stapler**, vice-president and nominating chairman, respectively.*



## A Message from President Mel Steely

We decided a number of things at the February board meeting. We noted that the beautiful and talented Rita Gentry will present the program on March 1st. Her topic will be on the history of the Carrollton City School System which is celebrating its 125 anniversary this year. Rita will have an excellent program and I encourage attendance...invite your friends and teachers you know. We also decided, due to low attendance in the past, to hold our awards dinner every other year instead of every year. The next Awards Dinner will be in 2013.

Gwyn Chesnut recommended that we make a contribution to the library in Moria McKinnon's memory and this was approved. Moria served as a CCHS officer for a number of years and was a valued member. We also decided to start a news-letter feature that will interview "Old timers" from the Carroll Co. area. During the course of a year we will try to cover each of the county's communities. If you have suggestions for interviews, please contact Janice Ivester, our news-letter editor.

We need new members. Please encourage anyone you think might be interested in the history of the area to join us in exploring the past and preserving its history.

Rita's program and our April program are good examples of that effort. In April local author and our vice president, Joe McGinnis, will present a program talking about his book, "The Last Zinnia" and tell us about the current book he is writing. Should be very interesting. BE THERE!

## TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Please fill out the enclosed form and return it, with your check, to the  
**Carroll County Historical Society, P.O. Box 1308, Carrollton, GA  
30112**

### CCHS BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2011

President	Mel Steely
Vice President	Joe McGinnis
Secretary	Rebecca Fordyce
Treasurer	Meredith Barr
Membership	Susan Vandiver
Newsletter	Janice Ivester
Programs	Doug Mabry
Archives	Gwyn Chesnut
Nominating	Martha Stapler

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