



# *The CCHS Newsletter*

Carroll County Historical Society

P. O. Box 1308

Carrollton, GA 30112

MARCH 2011

## MARCH GENERAL MEETING—Thursday, March 3, 2011



We are pleased to have Betty Gray at our March General Meeting to highlight the Carver High School Museum and Archives housed at the University of West Georgia. Betty is president and CEO of the Museum and Archives.

Here is an excerpt from Betty on her website (check it out at <<http://www.carverhighmuseum.org>>):

*Some people say, 'Forget about the past.' But they do not realize that wrapped up in those big moments of Black, White and American History of the 1950s and 1960s were millions of small moments that defined our youth. To ask us to forget 'this period' in our life is to ask us to forget the sound of our parents' voices, the terror of having your mama straighten your hair (or for the boys, the big build up to asking Dad for 'the keys'), family Christmas dinners, your first Prom, etc.*

*Visitors to The Carver High Museum and Archives will explore and experience the life and times of African Americans during the Carver High Years - from 1954 to 1969. We won't shy away from telling the truth about the era, but we will want all to know that even in those sometimes harsh and ultra historic days, in our world life was still all about us. And as teenagers are want to do, we did everything we could to live a 'normal life' and not let segregation spoil our enjoyment of our glorious youth. These are the kinds of stories that we will tell.*

*In closing, the bigger purpose to be filled by the CARVER HIGH MUSEUM is to leave a legacy for future generations of knowledge about the people upon whose shoulders they stand. We will want them to know, that although we lived through tough times, when it was our time, we stepped up on the stage of life - armed with the lessons taught by our parents - and went out and changed the world as we had known it. We will ask them to do the same."*

**Meeting starts at 6:30 PM Don't miss this one! Bring a friend!**

## A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Your board met last week and approved a change to the constitution regarding meeting times hoping to make our times, locations and topics more easily available and reliable. These are presented elsewhere in this newsletter and will be voted on by the membership at our next general meeting in March. Please try to be there.

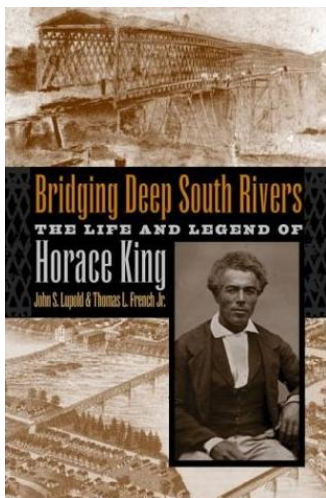
Good news! Our membership drive has been mildly successful with 46 dues-paying members as of Feb. 11th. If you haven't sent in your annual dues and registration please do so. We have arranged a series of speakers and events, such as our annual picnic and fieldtrips, to interest a wide variety of taste, all centered on the history of our county.

I met with Commission Chairman Bill Chappel earlier this week and he accepted our donation of the architect's rendering of the old (1920's) courthouse to go with the older drawing (1890's) to be placed in the new judicial center currently under construction. The CCHS donation of the rendering is part of our effort to widen the scope of our group and share with the public our holdings. The donation will be made official at a presentation following the completion of the center.

Dr. Mel Steely

## Historical Books from CCHS

The CCHS has a number of historical books for sale that will interest the local history enthusiast. Send check, with mailing address, to Carroll County Historical Society, PO Box 1308, Carrollton, GA 30112. To arrange pickup without mailing charges, call Gwyn Chesnut, 770-834-3081.

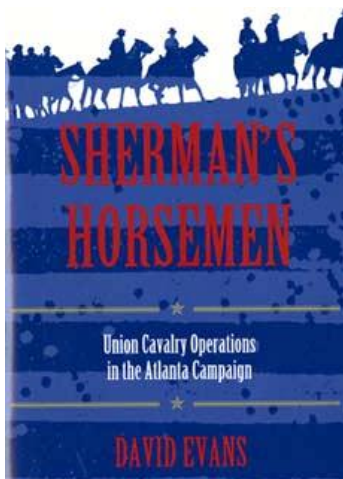
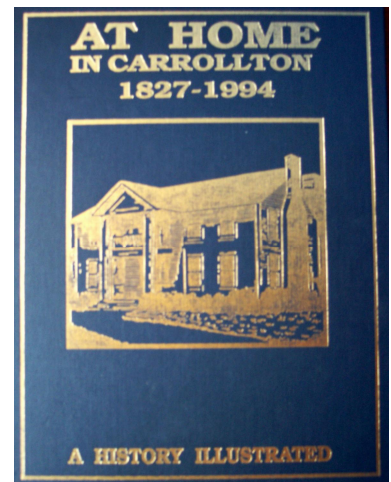


### **Bridging Deep South Rivers-** Life and Legacy of Horace King

\$ 28.00 Pickup  
\$ 31.00 Mailed

### **At Home in Carrollton** 1827—1994

\$ 35.00 Pickup  
\$ 40.00 Mailed

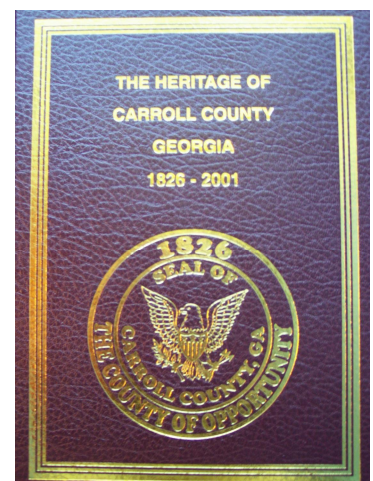


### **Sherman's Horsemen** Activities relating to Gen Sherman And the Atlanta Campaign (includes Moore's Bridge in Carroll County)

\$ 22.00 Pickup  
\$ 25.00 Mailed

### **The Heritage of Carroll County, GA-** 1826—2001

\$ 69.50 Pickup  
\$ 75.00 Mailed



## CHANGES IN THE BY-LAWS

The CCHS Board met February 17th at the Curtis-Marlowe-Perry House and discussed in detail the following changes in by-laws concerning the meeting dates and times for our General Meetings and Board Meetings. After much discussion, the board unanimously agreed to the changes, and proposed to bring it before the General Meeting for their vote.

**The General Meetings for the CCHS will be held on the first Thursday in February, March, April, May, October, and November.**

**There will be no General Meetings in the months of June, July, December, and January.**

**The Board Meetings for the CCHS will be held on each third Thursday at the Curtis-Marlowe-Perry House prior to the general meeting.**

With these changes, we will have the month of December free for Christmas activities and more time in January for planning our new year. Likewise the summer months of June and July will be free for summer vacations. In addition to these six regular meetings, we will have a picnic in August to get back together and gear up for the fall monthly meetings. Fall and spring both are great times for field trips. Our annual spring dinner and awards banquet will continue to be held in May.

### UNCLE REUBEN NORRIS AND THE YANKEES

(as told by Van Jackson to Janice Jackson Ivester, with a little bit of embellishing)

"I know what, Mama," I said one cold night after Christmas, when we were feeling rosy and warm and full and dreamy after the Christmas doings. The kitchen was cleaned up, the stove wood was brought in, the barn work was done, and the whole family was in the front room in front of the fire. "Tell us the story about Uncle Reuben and the Yankees!" Mama's mother Mary Catherine Norris White was the youngest of twelve children; the next-to-the-youngest was our Great-Uncle Reuben.

Roma stopped her hairbrush in mid-air and Woodrow looked up from the hickory nuts he was cracking on the hearth, and they all agreed they'd like to hear that old story again.

"Don't know as I can tell it all like Mama used to," Mama smiled a little, remembering. She was cradling Lurlie in her lap while warming the big stones to be put in the foot of our beds in the cold back room. "you know it as well as I do, anyways."

"But *you* tell us, Mama," begged Willene. She had her legs doubled up in her nightie so you could see the print of her skinny knees sticking up.

"Well, it was the summer the Yankees run over Atlanta, you know, and people were running right and left to get out of their way. My uncle Reuben, he warn't but about twelve year old, and his ma and pa warn't a gonna run, but they were gonna stick it out and protect what was theirs. They had lost two sons in the war. They had a farm, you know, somewhere in Atlanta—it's all city now—and it was right in the direction the Yankees was a going.

"My mama, your grandmother Mary Cathrine, took the cows down behind the barn into some woods, and stayed with them; she was about ten. They hid what little provisions they had in the outbuildings and up the chimney; and when they knowed that the Yankees was really a coming, why, Uncle Reuben, he crept out onto the porch where his pa was a setting in a straight chear by the door with an old shotgun acrost his lap.

"And the Yankees come. Why, it was about twelve or fourteen of 'em, come riding up, right on up to the porch where Reuben was a leaning against the post, him scared to death but not wanting to miss a thing that might happen. And it was of a mornin'.

"And they rode up, and they saw that shotgun acrost his pa's lap, but they didn't pay no mind to it, just said howdy, and was there any food in the house and where was the livestock. And their horses, why them Yankees just let their horses drink right out of the water bucket on the porch. Some of 'em got off and went in the house and rambled through and just took what they wanted in the way of food, and some of 'em went around back and caught the chickens and hogs. And Reuben didn't say a word, and his pa just set there with his gun and just answered when he had to. .

Then one of them Yankees, he spied Uncle Reuben's pet squirrel in a cage in the yard., and he went over to get it. That's when Uncle Reuben yelled, "No you don't! You ain't a takin' my squirrel!" And he run over and jerked up the shotgun outa his pa's lap. You see, it was hard just a standin' there watching them strange soldiers tote off their things, whatever they wanted, when they wasn't enough for 'em to live on anyways. And he knowed they'd kill his squirrel and eat it. But his pa grabbed the gun back just in time and said, "Let 'em be, son; let 'em be!"

"And Uncle Reuben was fighting back the tears and hating them Yankees, and not able to do anything about it, and him

not but about twelve year old. And them Yankees, they just laughed and rode off. They took the squirrel , and just about everything else, and times was hard, but they let the old man keep his old shotgun.”

It was quiet in the room for a little, except for the last half-burnt log falling in the fire. Then I remembered grandmother and the cows.

“The cows, Mama, don’t forget the cows!”

“That’s right, son.” Mama smiled. “The Yankees didn’t get the cows. Your grandmother stayed in the woods ‘til her papa went to get her, and they led the cows back to the house. The Yankees didn’t get the cows. Now, if y’all will run get in bed, I’ll wrap these stones up right quick and they’ll get those covers warm in a hurry.”

I dreamed that night of Yankees, and pet squirrels, and being brave enough to stand up to big soldiers like my great Uncle Reuben Norris, for I must have been about twelve years old that Christmas.

(Note: Reuben Norris and his brother Arthur started the Norris Candy Company on Peachtree Street in Atlanta; Mary Catherine Norris moved with her husband William Christopher White to Cleburne County, Alabama in 1881; their daughter Mary Clelia White married Andrew Jackson; and their son Van was born and grew up on the family farm in Carroll County.)

\* \* \* \* \*

Got a Carroll County story that needs to be told? Send it in to the CCHS or call me (Janice) at 770-836-1941. Or you might just have to settle for more of mine!

*MARCH GENERAL MEETING*  
March 3, 2011 Thursday, 6:30 p.m.  
The Neva Lomason Library

*CCHS BOARD MEMBERS  
FOR 2011*

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| President      | Mel Steely       |
| Vice President | Carolyn Langley  |
| Secretary      | Rebecca Fordyce  |
| Treasurer      | Meredith Barr    |
| Membership     | Susan Vandiver   |
| Newsletter     | Janice Ivester   |
| Programs       | Doug Mabry       |
| Archives       | Gwyn Chesnut     |
| Nominating     | Judy Schulenburg |

JOIN CARROLL COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
TODAY!

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P. O. Box 1308  
Carrollton, GA 30112

