Georgia Heritage
MAGAZINE

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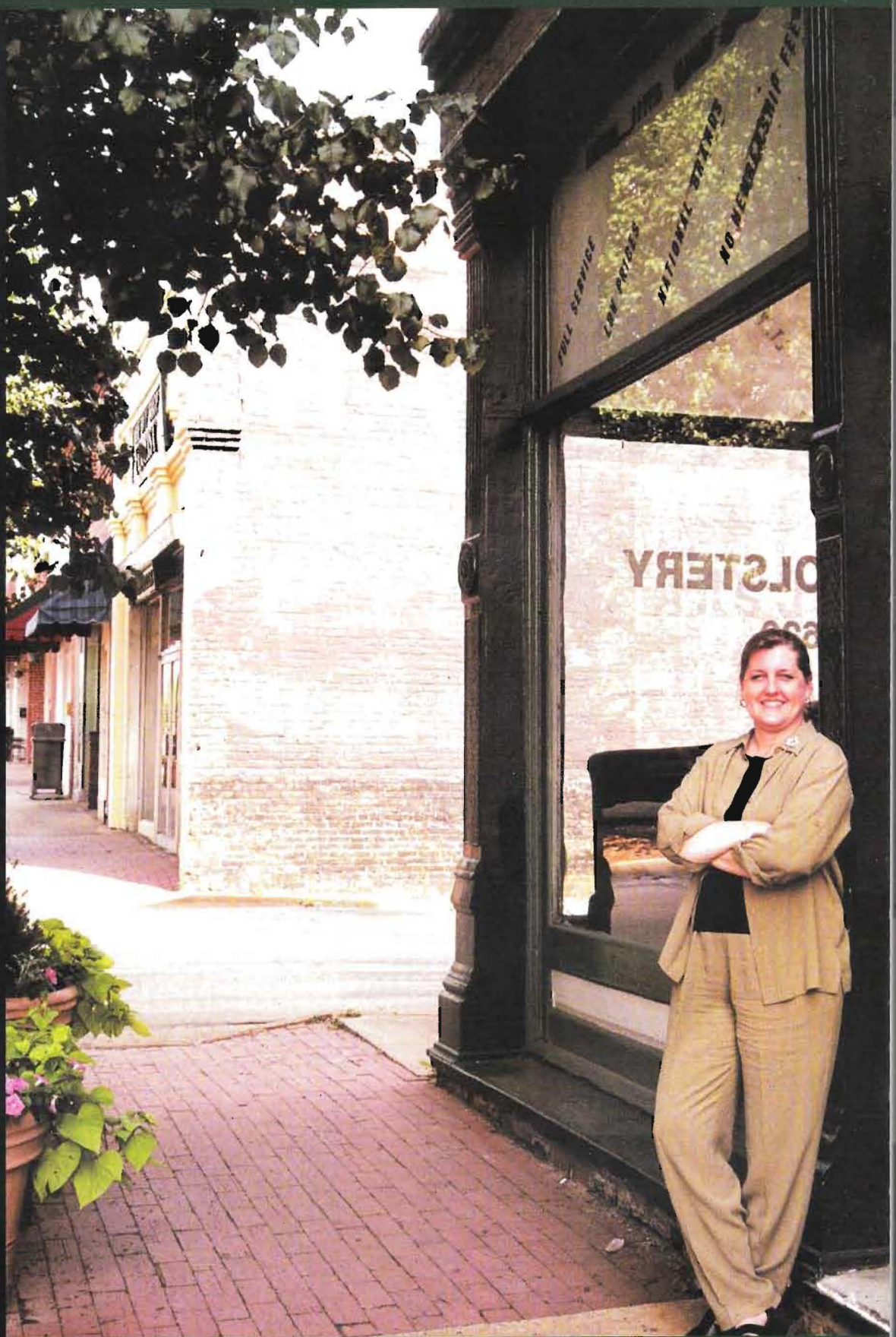
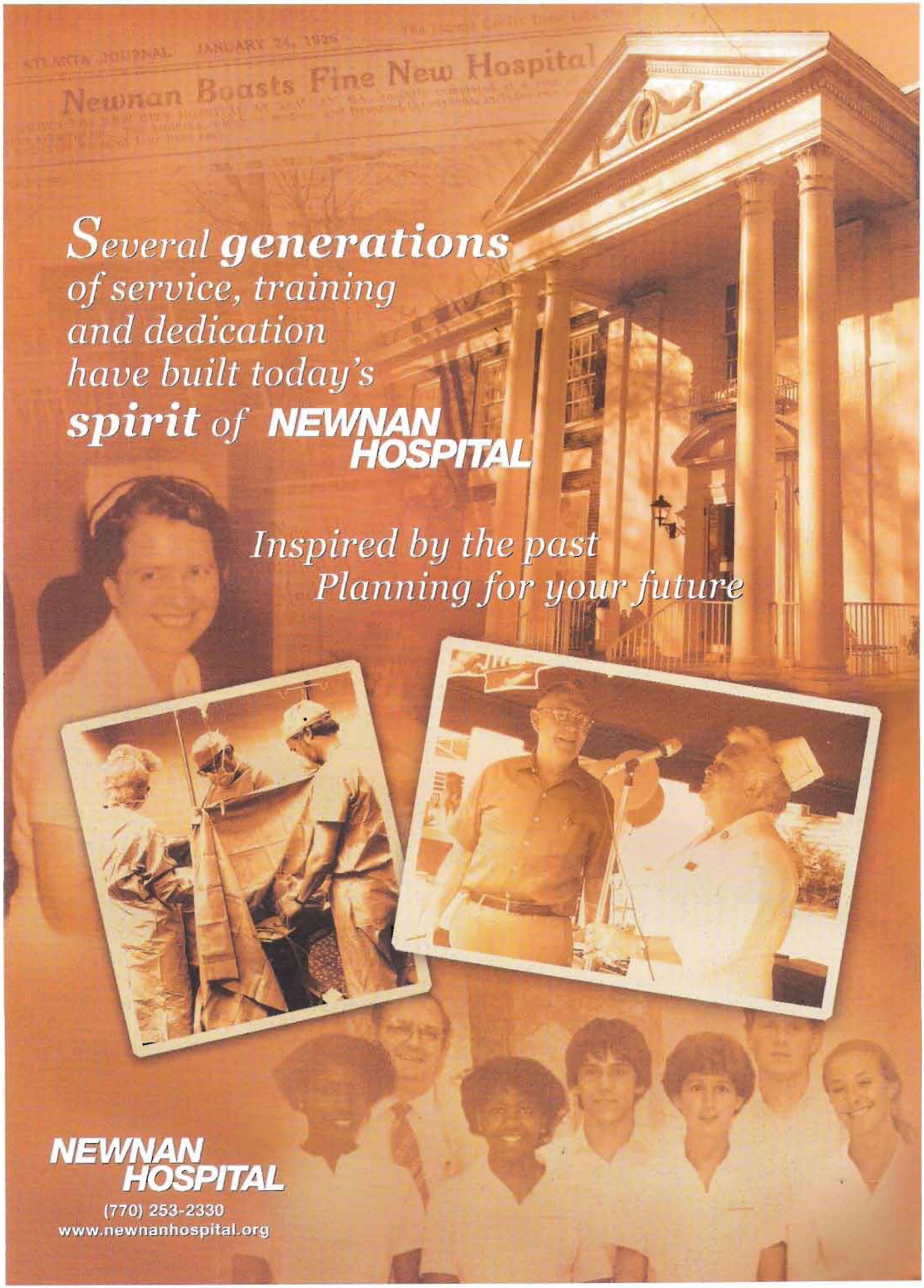


~ A PUBLICATION FOR EXPLORING OUR CULTURAL SOUL ~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Vol. 3, No. 2 Summer 2001

Georgia Heritage MAGAZINE

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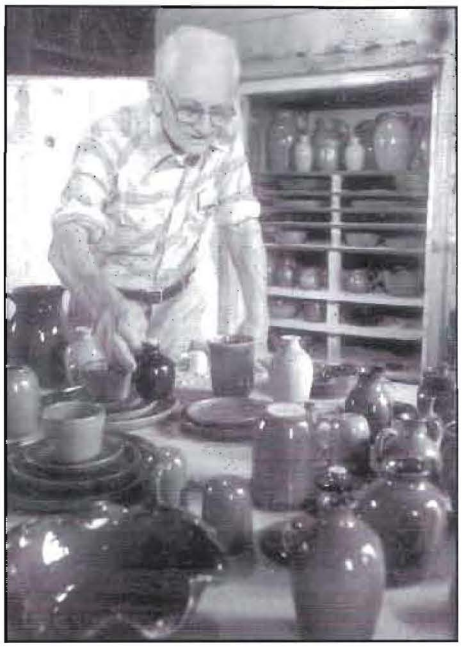

Georgia Heritage MAGAZINE

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Letters TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

It is not my general practice to respond to errors in articles purporting to recite historical facts. However, the article in your recent issue by Edwin L. Jackson attempts to validate the new state flag of Georgia. It contains such egregious mistakes that I am compelled to reply.... First, the designer of the original (1879) Georgia state flag was William Starr Basinger, not COL Herman (sic) H. Perry,...

In November of 1878 the governor of Georgia appointed a board to revise the military laws of the state. The first meetings of this board were held in Savannah in Basinger's law office, but were concluded in Atlanta the following year. As an afterthought to what became the Militia Act of 1879, Basinger suggested that the state needed an official flag.

He personally designed these colors with a view towards the command and control of troops in the field. Fellow board member John F. Wheaton concurred. When Anderson objected to the design on the grounds that it looked too much like the "Stars and Bars," Basinger explained that the design had no such intent. Instead, the colors and pattern were chosen so that even when the flag hung down on the staff, it could still be recognized. This is the reason the blue canton extended down the entire staff side of the flag and there was no design on the canton or elsewhere on the flag. The board agreed and through the agency of Senator Heman H. Perry presented the design in a companion bill with the Militia Bill of 1879 to the Legislature for ultimate approval. . . .

Should you wish documentation of these facts see my *History of the Georgia Militia, 1783-1861*...available in all major libraries in the state....

Sincerely,
GORDON B. SMITH
SAVANNAH

CULTURAL Soul

A Second Look

By Julie Turner, Editor and Publisher

Our feature articles in this issue have made me consider how we approach our heritage. "Acworth Attitude" struck me at first glance. After a quick encounter with the community, I knew I wanted to come back for more. But I confess that "Newnan and the Battle of Brown's Mill" has taken a decade to catch my attention because it did not snap neatly into the things I thought I knew. I had to take a second look.

Several years ago I learned that the Newnan-Coweta Historical Society was looking at the site of the old depot for their new museum. To put it politely, I thought they were misguided. To put it bluntly, I thought they were crazy. I found myself habitually shaking my head as I frequently drove by the site just east of the Courthouse Square. The way I heard it, the historical society planned to rebuild the depot out of the ruins which remained, and they were much offended when those ruins were declared "not eligible" for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Not only that, but the local folks were all excited about a building long gone – the depot as it had been during the Civil War! I expected the whole thing to die the natural death of a bad idea. I was wrong – on all counts.

It became obvious that the project was pushing forward, and when my old friend and colleague, Ellen Ehrenhard, came on board as the new director, I knocked on her door. "Ellen," I said, "explain this thing to me because I just don't get it." She was armed and ready with maps and photos and story board. Forty-five minutes later it all made sense and I walked out the door saying, "You will write up a feature for us on this, won't you?" For years, I had been seeing only the surface image which did not fit into my understanding of "depot."

I can tick off a number of examples that have taken a second look. When first setting out the scope of the Roscoe-Dunaway Gardens Historic District in northern Coweta County, the local folks insisted that their community extended up to the Redwine Plantation on Hutcheson Ferry Road. "No way," I thought. "That's all the way up into Fulton County." But I let them drive me around. I listened to the connections, I studied the maps, and I developed a whole new understanding of our "scattered" unincorporated rural communities.

My own house, a circa 1830 log dog-trot eventually saved through the Georgia Trust's Revolving Fund Program, was first documented as a late nineteenth century, central hall, frame, tenant house by one of the best in the field of vernacular studies. At first glance, I also thought, "Oh, this isn't going to be much." Only moments later, after traipsing through brambles and shining my flashlight along the log floor joists, I knew I was looking at a "must save."

Just a few years ago while working with a National Park Service HABS/HAER team in LaGrange, one of our researchers discovered that Dixie Mill was a significant example of a patented engineering system designed by Charles A. Praray in which the walls became a self-supporting zigzag shaped envelope of vertical piers and windows. Dixie Mill was the first of only five mills built in the nation with this unique system. This new information deepened our appreciation of the historical significance of LaGrange's Dixie Mill. It completely reversed the assessment of its counterpart built in Douglasville. That mill had recently been declared "not eligible" for listing in the National Register because at a glance it did not fit in with what we thought we knew about southern textile mills.

Sometimes it pays to take a second look.

NEWNAN & THE BATTLE OF BROWN'S MILL

By Ellen Ehrenhard

Not too long ago a tree popped up through the leaking roof of a small, blocky, brick freight depot sitting down by the railroad tracks in Newnan. At first glance, it might not look like much, but the depot marks the spot where the Civil War came to town. And in the end, this is the site where the dead and wounded Confederate and Union soldiers were brought after the Battle of Brown's Mill.

The first shots were fired on Newnan July 30, 1864 during a skirmish which turned into the two-day long Battle of Brown's Mill on Big Sandy Creek south of town. Newnan, which had served as a hospital center for the sick and wounded since the beginning of the Civil War, would have been in no position to defend itself if not for a fortuitous incident the day before. General Sherman sent the cavalry corps commanded by Brigadier General Edward Moody McCook and Major General George Stoneman, Jr. south of Atlanta to disable the railroads. Having accomplished this task north of Newnan, at Palmetto and Lovejoy Station, the two generals failed to rendezvous as planned and were looking for a way back across the Chattahoochee River and to the relative safety of the Atlanta lines. Disorganized and weary from days without sleep, McCook's 1st Division, Cavalry Corps, Army of the Cumberland found itself pushed southward toward Newnan by the Confederate forces commanded by General "Fighting" Joe Wheeler. As McCook approached Newnan along the Lower Fayetteville Road, he never intended to capture the town. He simply wanted to pass through on the way to Moore's Bridge spanning the Chattahoochee

East Broad Street, Newnan c.1885
Courtesy of Weyman C. Evans

at what is now Whitesburg, but as his men crested the hill near the depot on East Broad Street the battle began.

What McCook did not know was that his success in destroying the railroad north of town would become his undoing in the days to come. Confederate reinforcements commanded by Brigadier General Philip D. Roddey set out from Alabama to the battlefront in Atlanta carried by a troop train along the Atlanta and West Point Railroad which passed through Newnan. Because they could go no further, Roddey's dismounted cavalry unit stopped at the Newnan Depot the night before McCook rode into town. By now, the residents of Newnan, patients and medical staff, and the newly arrived Confederate soldiers were all aware that Federals were nearby, but a series of false alarms created confusion. According to David Evans, author of *Sherman's Horsemen*, early on the morning of July 30,

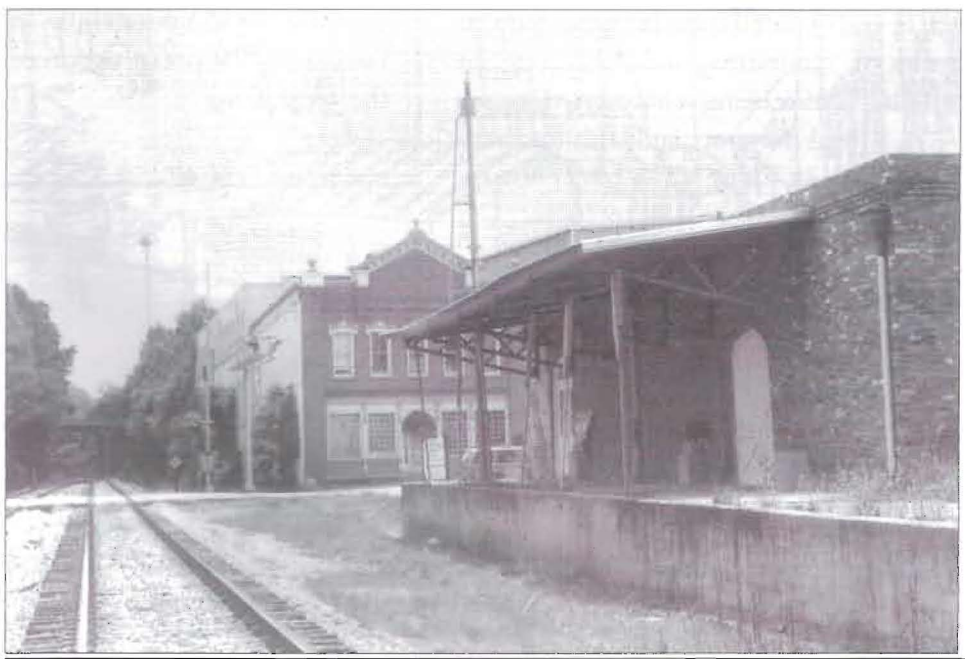
> ...one of the scouts sent out by the post commander, Colonel Thomas M. Griffin, reined up on the courthouse square and told a crowd of anxious listeners the nearest Yankees were miles away. Believing the danger had passed, Roddey ordered the train whistle sounded to recall his troops to the depot. The engineer pulled the cord hanging over his head just as Companies D and E of the 8th Indiana came charging down the hill.

By sheer luck, the blast of a locomotive whistle brought Roddey's men to the right place at the right time. They converged at the depot exchanging fire with the Union forces which fled south of town still looking for an escape route across the Chattahoochee.

Newnan Depot c.1885 - 1890

Moving also to the south and west of the Union forces along LaGrange Street and on to Old Corinth Road, the badly outnumbered Confederates waited in ambush for McCook's increasingly disorganized army to come toward them on Ricketyback Road. An intense two-day battle ensued ending in a victory for the Confederacy which kept Atlanta's supply lines open and forced Sherman into a lengthy siege. The wounded, on both sides, were treated at the hospitals in Newnan. The captured were sent to Andersonville Prison.

Long after the Battle of Brown's Mill, through eras of cotton boom and railroad bust the depot complex just east of Newnan's courthouse square has changed with the times. A one-story, rectangular building with broad overhanging eaves continued to serve Coweta County's passenger and freight rail traffic until 1891 when a new brick passenger depot was constructed in the popular Queen Anne style. A semi-circular tower anchored the southeast corner of this stylish building, and massive decorative brackets supported the overhanging roof. To the north of this building, and slightly further away from the tracks, a separate cotton and freight warehouse was built on the same platform.



At some point before 1904, an addition connected the passen-

ger and freight depots into a single unit. Coweta County's economy, based largely on cotton, continued to boom during the early twentieth century. As a major shipping point on the Atlanta and West Point Railroad, an even larger freight warehouse must have been needed to accommodate the increased production and demand for cotton. By 1911, a second brick warehouse was added to the north end of the depot. Now the depot extended along the tracks from East Broad Street to East Washington Street.

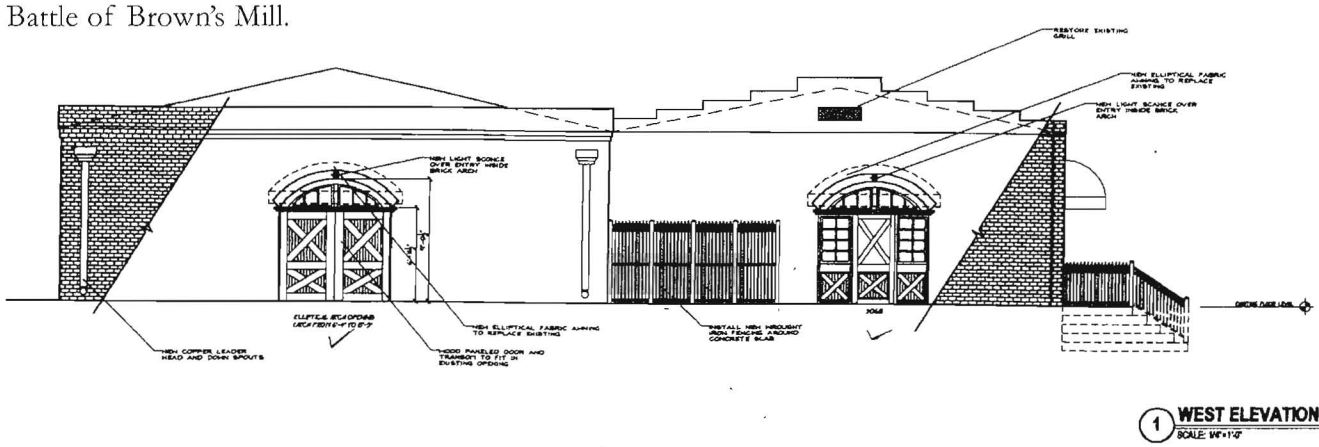
Volunteer, Dr. Les Luttrelle helps with the clean up

The boll weevil, the automobile, interstate trucking and the airplane all took their toll on the railroad, and the last passenger train stopped in Newnan in 1975. First to be demolished was the stylish Queen Anne passenger depot which was torn down by CSX in 1976. Next, the larger of the two warehouses built between 1904 and 1911 came down, quite possibly from structural failure. This masonry building had been constructed on top of the old cotton platform, and over the years the weight of the building and the deterioration of the frame platform created serious foundation problems. The massive structure was pushed in on itself, forming a mound of bricks and debris soon covered by weeds.

The remains of the old depot complex, that small, blocky, brick freight depot built in 1891, continued to be used by CSX as an office until only a few years ago. With an eye to the future, Robert Hancock of Newnan bought it from the railroad, stabilized it, and donated it the Newnan-Coweta Historical Society. After several years of fundraising and cultivating the vision within the community, the building is now being rehabilitated for use as the historical society's headquarters, a local museum, and with the assistance of a $75,000 grant from the state, as an interpretive center for the Battle of Brown's Mill.

Preserving the Brown's Mill Battlefield

Representative Lynn Smith spearheaded a proposal during the last legislative session to save the site of the Battle of Brown's Mill just south of Newnan. With the support and recommendation of the Department of Natural Resources - which assessed the proposal, the battlefield, and the interpretive center at the old depot - $100,000 was appropriated as a line-item in the state budget to purchase the property. The Coweta County Board of Commissioners threw its support into the preservation effort by committing the County's green space funds of over $300,000 toward purchase of the battlefield. Attorneys for the County and the Newnan-Coweta Historical Society are in the process of making an offer to purchase the property from Temple-Inland Forest, which is cooperating fully in facilitating the preservation of the battlefield.



1 WEST ELEVATION

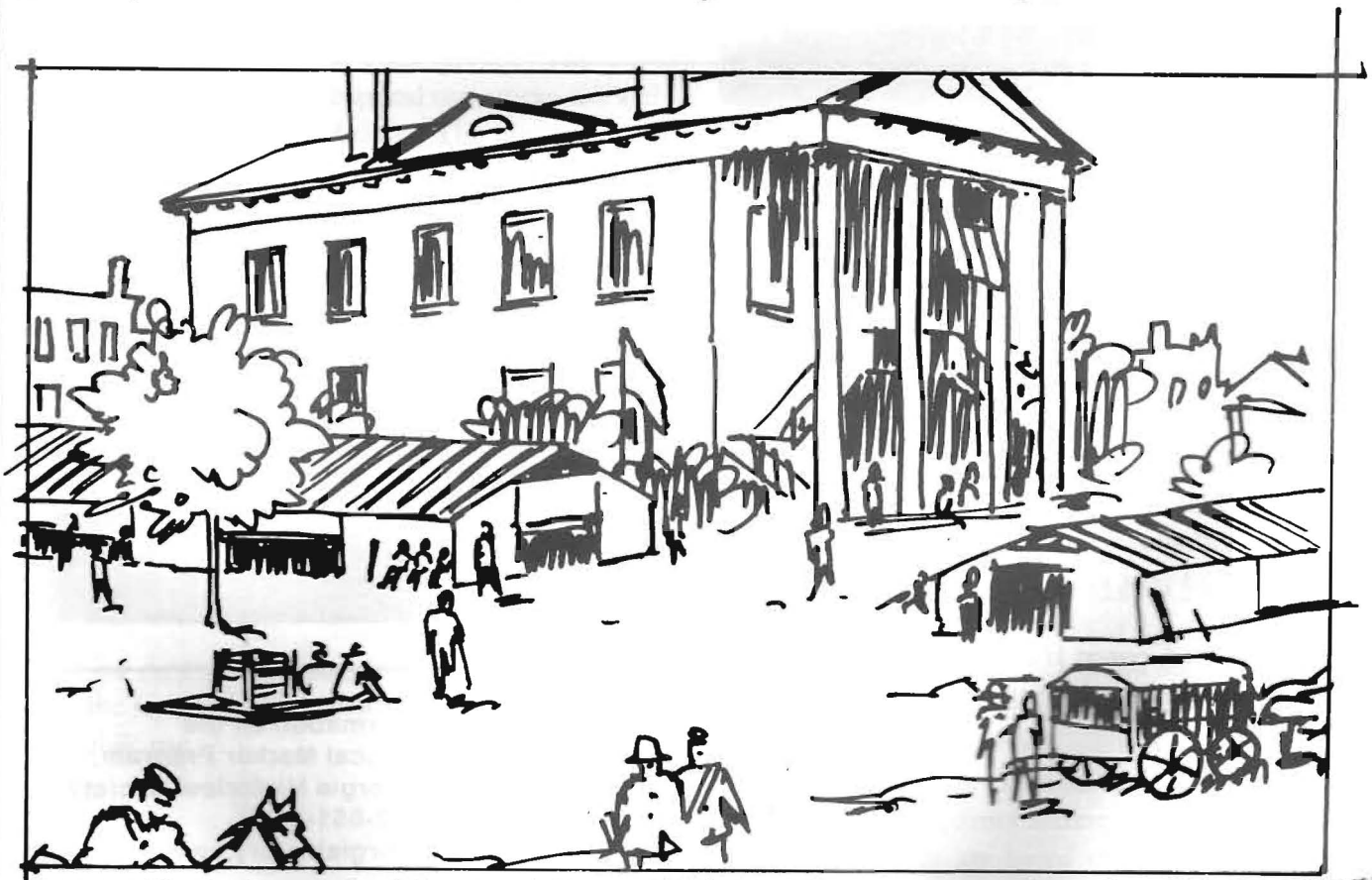
A Confederate Hospital Town

***Sunday, July 31** – A most exciting day. The town is filled with troops. Last Thursday, the 28th, about dark, scouts brought in word that the enemy was crossing the river in large force. There was little heed paid to the report, as we had heard so many lately. About 9 o'clock the whole sky was illuminated by a glare of light, in the direction of Palmetto, a small town on the railroad. We knew then what we had to expect. . .*

— Kate Cumming

The residents of Newnan experienced the reality of the Civil War long before the first shots were fired in the Battle of Brown's Mill. Early in the war, Dr. F.E. Daniel recommended the town as a good place for a hospital because of its location on the Atlanta & West Point Railroad. In a letter written November 1, 1862, Daniel describes the area around Newnan: "It is a section of the country where the people have as yet but remotely felt the effects of the war, and he [Dr. Logan at Atlanta] intimates that the country is still rich in such articles as the sick would need, — such as poultry, eggs, butter, milk, etc.; articles which could not well be shipped to Chattanooga." Newnan proved so suitable that the town became home to four large Confederate hospitals: Bragg, Buckner, Foard, and Gamble.

The community's Confederate hospital legacy is portrayed in the writings of three nurses who served in Newnan's hospitals and the Army of Tennessee: Kate Cumming, Fannie A. Beers, and Mrs. S.E.D. Smith. In *Kate: The Journal of a Confederate Nurse*, Kate Cumming's words create a vivid image of the town and the war.



Conceptual Sketch of Newnan Confederate Hospital Scene c.1864, by Martin Pate
an artistic interpretation based on historical and archeological research

GEORGIA Historical Markers

THOMSON, MCDUFFIE COUNTY

Home of Thomas E. Watson

After passing the state Bar in 1876, native Thomas E. Watson returned to Thomson and lived in this house with his family from 1881 to 1900. In his first floor office Watson began his law and writing career and entered politics. He served in the Georgia House (1882), U.S. Congress (1890-92), and the U.S. Senate (1920-22). He was nominated for Vice President on the Populist Party ticket with William Jennings Bryan in 1896. Here Watson authored the two-volume *Story of France* and a biography of Napoleon. In a career often marked by controversy, he was best known as the "Father of Rural Free Delivery."

Erected by The Georgia Historical Society and Watson-Brown Foundation

SAVANNAH STATE UNIVERSITY

Walter Bernard Hill Hall

This is the oldest remaining building on the Savannah State University campus. It was constructed in 1901 by the students and faculty of then Georgia State Industrial College during the administration of the college's first president, Richard R. Wright, Sr. It is named for the chancellor of the University of Georgia at that time. President William Howard Taft visited Hill Hall in 1912 and African American soldiers trained here during World War I. The building has served as a dormitory, library, classroom and administrative building, student center, book store, and post office.

Erected by The Georgia Historical Society and Savannah State University National Alumni Association

For Information on the
Georgia Historical Marker Program,
Contact The Georgia Historical Society
912-651-2125
ghs@georgiahistory.com.

Cobb's Vernacular Treasures

Acworth

Cowen House

Built c.1854 for Stephen D. Cowen and remaining in its original location, this house is a vernacular type known as an I-house. In Georgia, it is also commonly referred to as a "plantation plain" house. The Cowen House is only one room deep and two stories tall with a rear shed and gabled addition. The construction is braced frame with hand hewn beams and mortise and tennon joints. The wide flush board siding surrounding the entry is characteristic of houses built between 1830 and 1860 in Georgia.

Stephen Cowen moved his family westward from Jackson County to Cobb County in the early 1850s and developed a plantation which would grow to 1,200 acres. By the 1860 Census, the Cowen family was farming 125 acres with eight slaves. The farm produced primarily wheat and corn at that time with cotton grown only for the family's domestic use.

The Acworth Society for Historic Preservation owns the Cowen House, which is slated for restoration and public use.

McMillan House

This frame, two-story house with Folk Victorian stylistic detailing is a vernacular type classified in Georgia as a New South House. It was built c.1879 for James and Emma Alice Lemon McMillan. James McMillan was a local merchant and partner of McMillan Brothers Mercantile on Main Street.

The plan is asymmetrical with a projecting two-story bay. Folk Victorian details include a bay window, a transom over the entry, chamfered porch posts and scrollwork. Originally, the wrap-around porch also extended along the second story of the house.

The McMillan House is located within the Collins Avenue Historic District listed in the National Register of Historic Places July 2001.

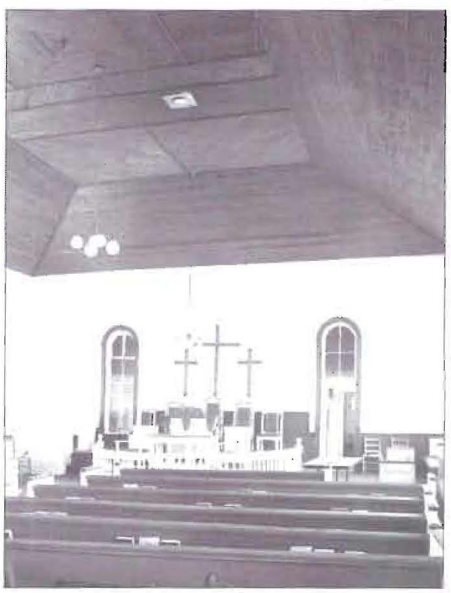
The Kienel Compound

Four houses within the Collins Avenue Historic District were constructed in 1928 for the Unique Knitting Company for Frederick J. Kienel, the company's general manager, and three other employees. Two of these houses (4652 & 4662 Collins Ave.) are bungalows with Craftsman style elements built from the pattern book designs of Atlanta architect Leila Ross Wilburn. These two houses are based upon the combined designs of patterns numbered 354 and 355 of *Ideal Homes of Today.*

Wilburn attended Agnes Scott Institute (now Agnes Scott College) from 1902 to 1904. After serving as an apprentice draftsman for an architectural firm, she opened her own office in Atlanta in 1909 focusing on residential design as a "scientific designer of artistic bungalows."

Bethel A.M.E. Church

Built c.1878, the Bethel A.M.E. Church is located in a historically African-American neighborhood north of downtown Acworth. The vestibule and bell towers were added to the structure in 1895. The sanctuary features a 20 foot coffered ceiling of herringbone design made of 3 ½ inch beaded, tongue-and-groove pine boards.



Bethel's congregation was formed in 1864 and originally shared a church building with the Zion Hill Baptist Church, with each congregation meeting on alternate Sundays.

Eli Whitney School

The Eli Whitney School was built c.1928 as part of the Coats and Clark Mill Village. The building features elements of the Craftsman style and rows of windows on each side, which is characteristic of early twentieth century schools, for lighting and ventilation.

Mableton

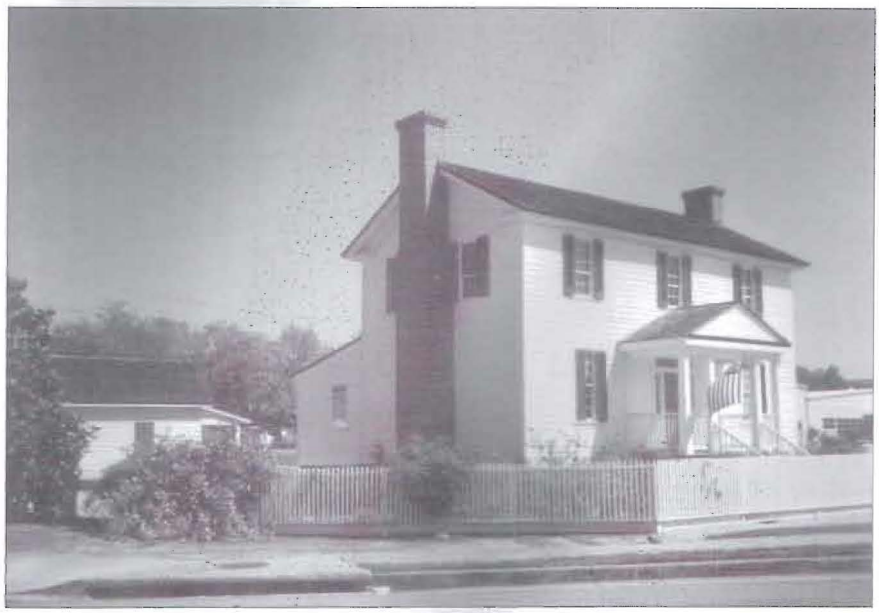
Mable House

Built in 1843 for Robert Mable, this is also a "plantation plain" or I-house. Mable migrated from Scotland first to Canada, then to Savannah, and finally to Cobb County when it was opened to settlement by the removal of the Cherokees and the land lottery.

The Mable House is currently being restored as a house museum as part of the Cobb Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The adjacent Mable House Cultural Center is the home of the South Cobb Arts Alliance's visual arts gallery.

Marietta

Root House



This "plantation plain" or I-house with Greek Revival elements was built for William and Hannah Root circa 1845. William Root settled in Marietta in 1839 becoming one of the community's earliest merchants and druggist. In 1881, he became one of only four druggists in the state issued an honorary license by the newly established Georgia Pharmaceutical Board of Examiners.

Restored as a house museum by the Cobb Landmarks and Historical Society, Inc., the Root House provides unique insight into the home life of a middle class merchant and his family during the antebellum period.

Cobb County

Power Cabin

Protected and preserved through the efforts of Cobb Landmarks and the Trust for Public Land, the Power Cabin and associated Hyde Farm are unique remnants of Cobb County's early and rural heritage. George Abner and Winifred Copeland Power probably built their single pen log house circa 1846 near the bank of the Chattahoochee River.

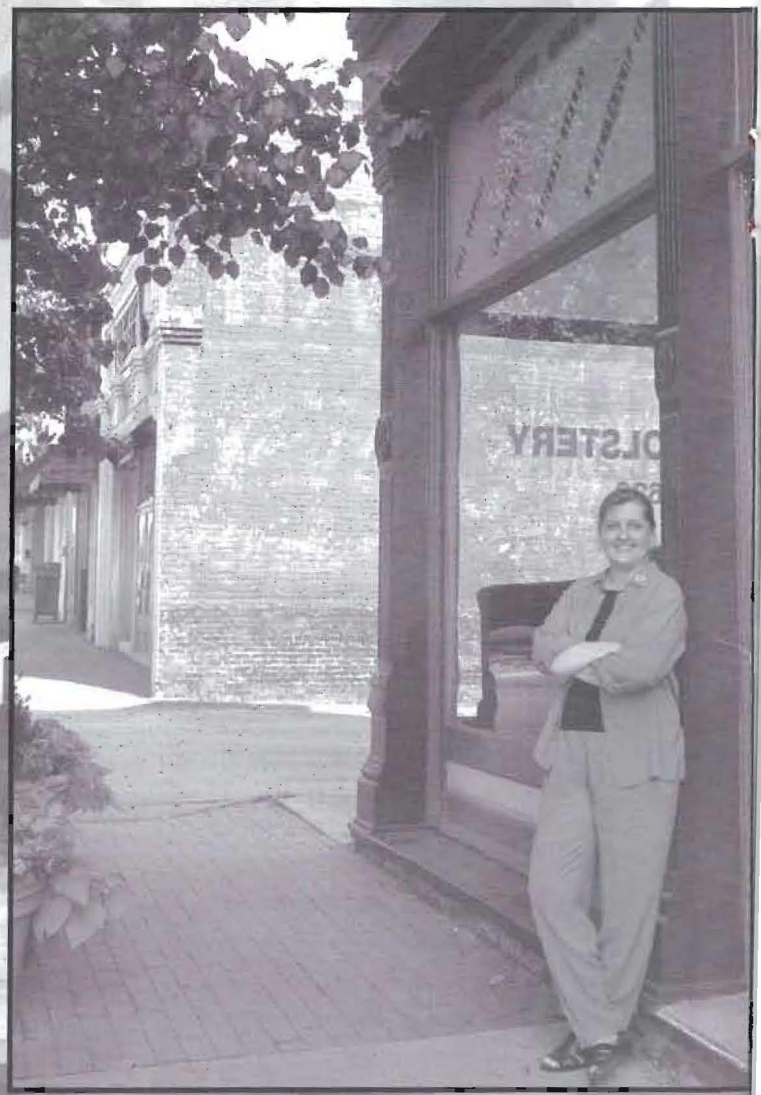
Members of Vernacular GeorgiA at the Power Cabin

George Power was a typical yeoman farmer in the mid-nineteenth century. By 1850, his farm included 300 acres along the river, but less than a third of his land was under cultivation. George Power never owned slaves though other members of his family living nearby did.

By 1860, additions of one room at the east end of the log pen and two rooms which enclosed each end of the front porch had been made to accommodate the household of twelve people.

Acworth Attitude!

By Julie Turner



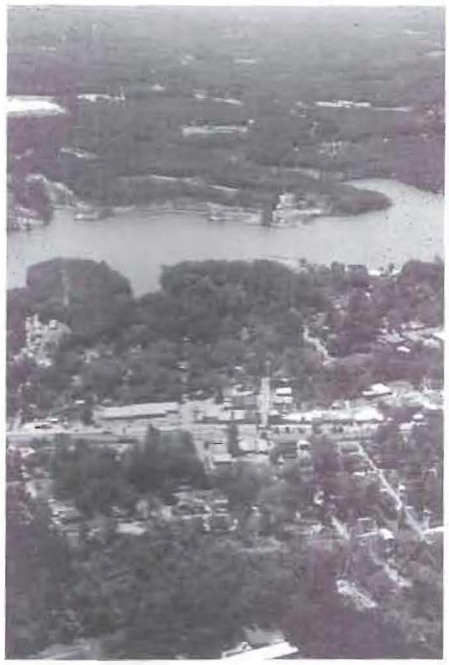
"Acworth is an oasis of comfort in a sea of subdivisions," according to Larry Branch, one of the town's enthusiastic Main Street merchants. Mayor Marcia Andruzzi echoed his sentiments when reflecting upon her family's decision in 1981 to move out of an east Cobb County subdivision into the historic community. She and her husband drove up to Acworth for a yard sale one day and kept coming back for another look. "We were attracted to the small town character for raising our children," Andruzzi explained. Abbie Parks says it again when she talks about rethinking life in 1995, moving from Smyrna to Acworth, and rehabbing the McMillan House. "We were looking for a big house and small town character."

These three exemplify the *Acworth Attitude* I discovered on my first visit to town. It's a way of seeing things and doing things which gathers up heritage, community, and vision into a feisty wad of positive energy and releases it right back into the community to energize others. It is an attitude which transforms citizens into community advocates.

Marcia Andruzzi, an interior designer, jumped out of community advocacy and into local politics in 1993. "I was very involved with the schools and the historical society, and I found myself wanting to see issues which were important to me and the community brought forward." As one of Georgia's fastest growing communities from 1990 to 2000, Acworth faced a number of very urban problems which threatened its small town historic character. Andruzzi was concerned about Lake Acworth, polluted and closed at the time. And she was particularly concerned about a proposed transportation project which she believed not only threatened the historic character of the community but also failed to solve Acworth's transportation problems.

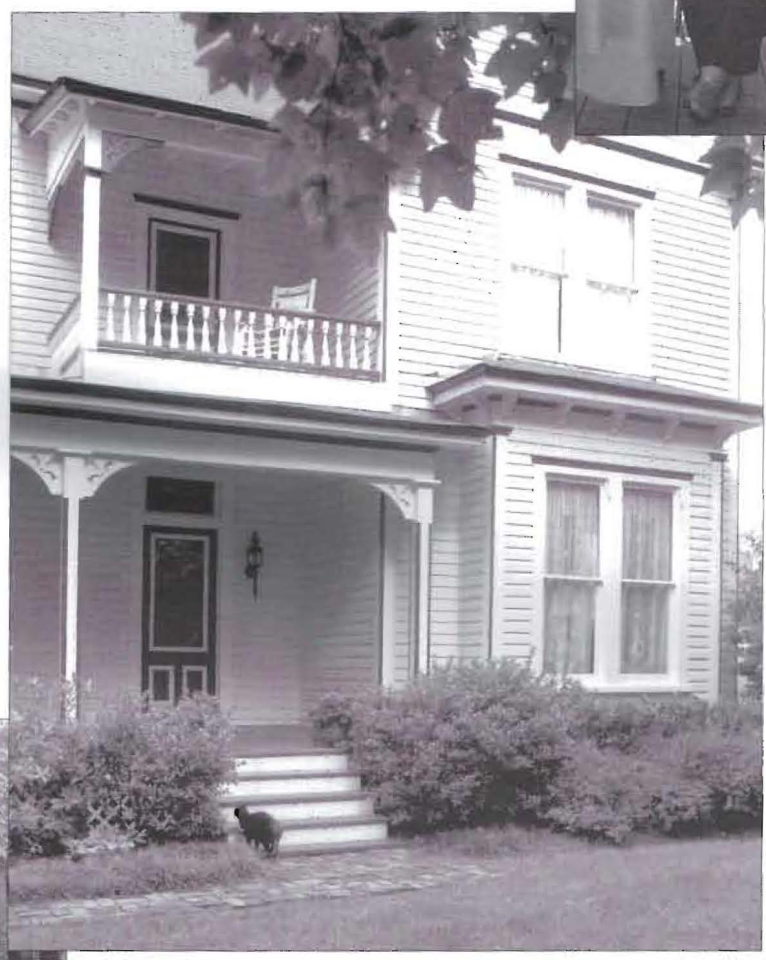
Ironically, today's transportation problems are intricately linked to Acworth's heritage as a railroad town. In 1836, shortly after Cobb County was opened to settlement by the removal of the Cherokees and the land lottery, the state legislature authorized the Western and Atlantic Railroad to run from what is now Atlanta to the Tennessee state line at Chattanooga. By 1842, the rail line extended to Land Lot 30 which had been drawn and settled by Alexander Northcutt. The small community of Northcutt Station developed as a watering stop along the line. Joseph L. Gregg, a civil engineer working on grading the railroad route, renamed the community Acworth in 1843.

Acworth's commercial district developed parallel to the tracks, and by the 1880s the streetscape began



Lake Acworth, created in the 1950s

to look like the Main Street being preserved and revitalized today. Brick-front commercial buildings with cast-iron store fronts and new-fangled plate glass windows which let light into the long narrow stores and allowed the shop keeper to display his tempting merchandise sprang up side by side facing the railroad. Businesses such as the *S. Lemon Banking Company* and *McMillan's General Merchandise Store* thrived on Main Street. In the nineteenth century, progressive city leaders offered free railroad frontage and tax breaks to lure industrial enterprises such as the *T.F. Moore Grist Mill* to town, and Acworth prospered as a market for cotton farmers from the surrounding countryside. Even though trains no longer stop in town, that same rail line remains one of the busiest in the nation with as many as 60 freight trains a day passing through downtown Acworth.



The McMillan House (c.1879) and Abbie Parks

Mayor Marcia Andruzzi characterizes Acworth today as *rurban*. "We are rural in personality and urban in proximity to Atlanta." Andruzzi's leadership, first on the city council and then when elected mayor in 1997, has steered the community through a period of growth and revitalization. The City in partnership with the Downtown Development Authority intensified the focus on Main Street, stimulating rehabilitation and encouraging new business. A streetscape and transportation enhancement project underway and slated for completion in 2003 will construct an underpass to keep automobile traffic flowing as the freight trains whip through town. As one of Georgia's newest Main Street cities, new and diverse businesses are finding their way into the downtown. With the incentive of the City's façade grant program, Larry Branch revived the 1906 Armstrong Building into an inspiring downtown landmark, and others are riding the same wave.

The *Acworth Attitude* is evident in the faces of its people as well as the rejuvenated faces of its downtown buildings. Since moving to town in 1995, Abbie Parks has taken the reins of the Acworth Society for Historic Preservation and has played an active role in the City's tourism and economic development push. "I just happened to hit town at the right time. The infrastructure was in place. The community desire set. I just came to town with the energy and time."

Her first preservation success in town was personal – the rehabilitation of the c.1879 McMillan House. Moved one block in the 1980s to make way for the Baptist Church parking lot, the historic house had experienced rough times in the 90s. "The house was so nasty when we bought it that my children refused to go inside. We hauled off three thirty-foot dumpsters of trash." Abbie Parks transformed the derelict old house into a historic showplace in just a few short months, and she has unleashed that same energy and attitude on the Acworth community as a whole.

It appears to be an infectious attitude held not only by the city's elected officials, but also by the city staff as well. Since 1998, the City has solidified its vision by building an energetic economic development staff. Amy Lowry, who serves as the city's Economic Development Director, came on board first, followed this year by Sheri Levine, who works with the Main Street Program, Downtown Development Authority, and the Tourism Board, and Michael Wyatt, who serves as Acworth's Preservation Planner.

My most vivid impression of the *Acworth Attitude* came during lunch with this crew of City officials. We ate at Henry's Louisiana Grill on Main Street, a restaurant which will soon draw folks up from Atlanta for Henry's Cajun fare. Conversation carried the flavor of people who enjoy each other's company, when Sylvia Draughn caught our eye through the window. Sylvia, a flight attendant who moved to Acworth less than a year ago and who also happened to be a master gardener, walked along Main Street, two watering cans in hand, tending the colorful planters along the sidewalk. When she saw our group inside Henry's, Sylvia smiled and waved her watering cans happily in the air, full of *Acworth Attitude*.

PRESERVING Georgia

Ebenezer Revolutionary War Study

The LAMAR Institute is launching a study to identify and preserve Revolutionary War fortifications at the strategically important colonial era town of Ebenezer with the help of a National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program grant. The LAMAR Institute, a non-profit organization dedicated to archeological research and public education, will employ modern archaeological technologies to search for vestiges of the fortifications. Archeologists will use the information gathered during the project to develop interpretative media presentations about the history of the site and its need for preservation.

During the Revolutionary War, both American and British forces occupied the town of Ebenezer. The British built fortifications around Ebenezer in 1779 and used the town as a base of operations along the Savannah River. Later in the war, Ebenezer provided a secure camp for General "Mad" Anthony Wayne's American garrison, which Loyalists attacked in June 1782.

Historic Districts - Where Are You?

The Historic Preservation Division is undertaking a mapping project, attempting to map all local historic districts in the state. Certified Local Government Coordinator Christine Laughlin will be contacting every local government with a preservation ordinance to request a list of all local historic districts with maps of the districts. Please send all maps to:

Christine Laughlin, Certified Local Government Coordinator, University of Georgia, Founders Garden House, 325 S. Lumpkin Street, Athens, GA 30602-1861.

Georgia Trust Preservation Awards 2001

The Mary Gregory Jewett Award
for a long and outstanding history of dedication and distinguished statewide service to the field of historic preservation in Georgia
Westley Wallace Law, Savannah

Georgia Trust Volunteer of the Year
Vickie Hearn Williamson, Monroe

Preservation Service Awards
Washington Co. Elderites, Sandersville
Jo Cummings, Washington County
Cooledge Avenue Restoration, Atlanta

Excellence in Rehabilitation Awards
Christ Episcopal Church, Macon
Cohen-Tarbutton House, Sandersville
The Elms, Talbot County
The Gallery on Newcastle, Brunswick
Greensboro Streetscape, Greensboro
Huguenin Heights, Macon
Old Rock School, Dawsonville
Thornton-Wheatley Building, Americus
Newnan Cotton Mill Lofts, Newnan

Preservation Leadership
Senator George Hooks, Americus

Excellence in Restoration Awards
St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Atlanta
First African Baptist Church
at Raccoon Bluff, Sapelo Island
The Ables House, Buena Vista

J. Neel Reid Prize
Cara Cummins, Atlanta

B. Phinizy Spalding Scholarship
Jennifer Leigh Holcombe, GSU

Hubert B. Owens Scholarship
Jennifer Lynn Landenheim, UGA

The National Register of Historic Places

THOMASVILLE, THOMAS COUNTY

Stevens Street Historic District

The Stevens Street Historic District is an intact African American neighborhood settled by newly freed slaves. The district is significant since legalized segregation in Thomasville forced the African American community to build their own stores, recreational facilities, churches, and schools to provide their own opportunities. The neighborhood has retained many of its community landmark buildings including the Clay Street YMCA, now Francis F. Weston YMCA (c. 1890), St. Luke's CME Church (late 1890s), and the Church of the Good Shepherd (1894) and School (1923). The district is also significant for its excellent examples of vernacular and high-style residential buildings associated with Thomasville's African American community.

LISTED: MAY 10, 2001

SUPPORTED BY: THOMASVILLE LANDMARKS, INC.

Reidsville, Tattnall County

Smith-Nelson Hotel

The Smith-Nelson Hotel has been an important building in downtown Reidsville for over 90 years. Prior to the construction of the existing hotel, the Smith family built a hotel on the same site in 1905. Shortly after construction was completed, the building burned to the ground. With the insurance money, the Smith family was able to construct the existing hotel on the same site in 1908. The Smiths' in-laws, the Nelson family, moved to Reidsville in 1913 and took over management of the hotel. The Smith-Nelson Hotel was one of only two hotels serving the county seat from the late 19th century to the early 20th century.

Listed: March 29, 2001
Supported by the property owners

Cornelia, Habersham County

Loudermilk Boarding House

The Loudermilk Boarding House is a two-story, frame, New South-type house built in 1907. The house was constructed for Robert Lee and Callie Phanietta Loudermilk. Shortly after building an addition to the house in 1915, the Loudermilks began taking in boarders. According to family history, Callie appears to have run the boarding house, while Robert pursued various occupations including owning a livery stable, holding several civic posts, owning a retail meat business, and farming. During its many years of operation, the house hosted a wide range of boarders, including long-term boarders who worked in downtown Cornelia, traveling salesmen, artists, WPA workers, railroad employees, professionals, apple and peach pickers, and teachers. After Robert's death in 1931, Callie continued to run the boarding house with the help of her daughter. Her daughter, Lurlie Loudermilk Ricketson, continued to operate the boarding house after her mother's death until the late 1970s.

Listed: February 9, 2001
Sponsored by the property owner

Historic Preservation Division
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

For Information on the
National Register of Historic Places:

Historic Preservation Division
GA Dept of Natural Resources
404-656-2840
www.gashpo.org

MUSEUM Spotlight

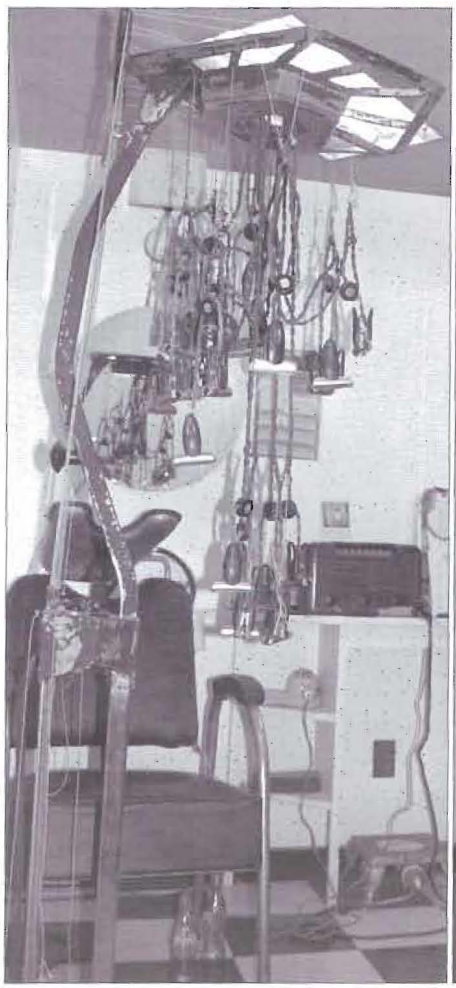
BARTOW HISTORY CENTER

CARTERSVILLE

The Bartow History Center brings a new name and enthusiasm to a well-established regional museum located in Cartersville. For many years the History Center has interpreted the heritage of northwest Georgia under the auspices of the Etowah Foundation. Now the museum operates through a separate foundation as part of a restructuring plan designed to provide increased funding and opportunity to the History Center.

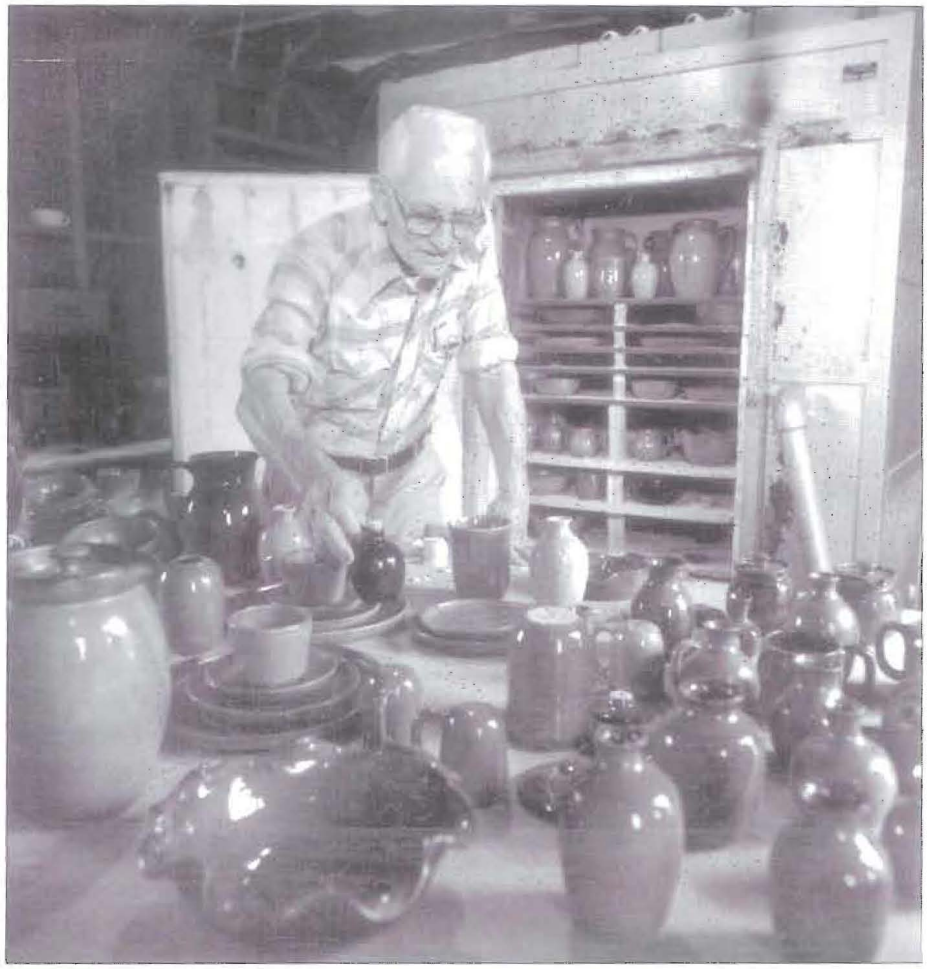
Director Michele Rodgers is enthusiastic about the museum's future as she begins the daunting task of redesigning exhibits. All the while, the active slate of interpretive programs for Bartow County's school kids continues in the *Community Classroom.* The History Center provides area teachers with an added dimension through an interdisciplinary relationship with Bartow's other cultural and educational institutions including the Weinman Mineral Museum, Grand Theatre, and the Science and Art Center.

The History Center's exhibits interpret the expected span of history from the Cherokee heritage and through the Civil War, but the museum's strength lies in vividly portraying snap shots of daily life. From Rudy York, who played baseball for the local Goodyear mill team and made it to the pros, to potter Bill Gordy and images of "peacock alley," the exhibits brush upon the meaningful fabric of community. As a closer to the progress through time, the everyday world of a 1940s Cartersville beauty shop, The Kennedy Beauty Shop, will grab you.



The Bartow History Center
is located at
13 N. Wall Street
in downtown Cartersville.
770-382-3818

The Kennedy Beauty Shop hits you with a *culture shock* jolt between the familiar hair dryer and the alien curling machine.



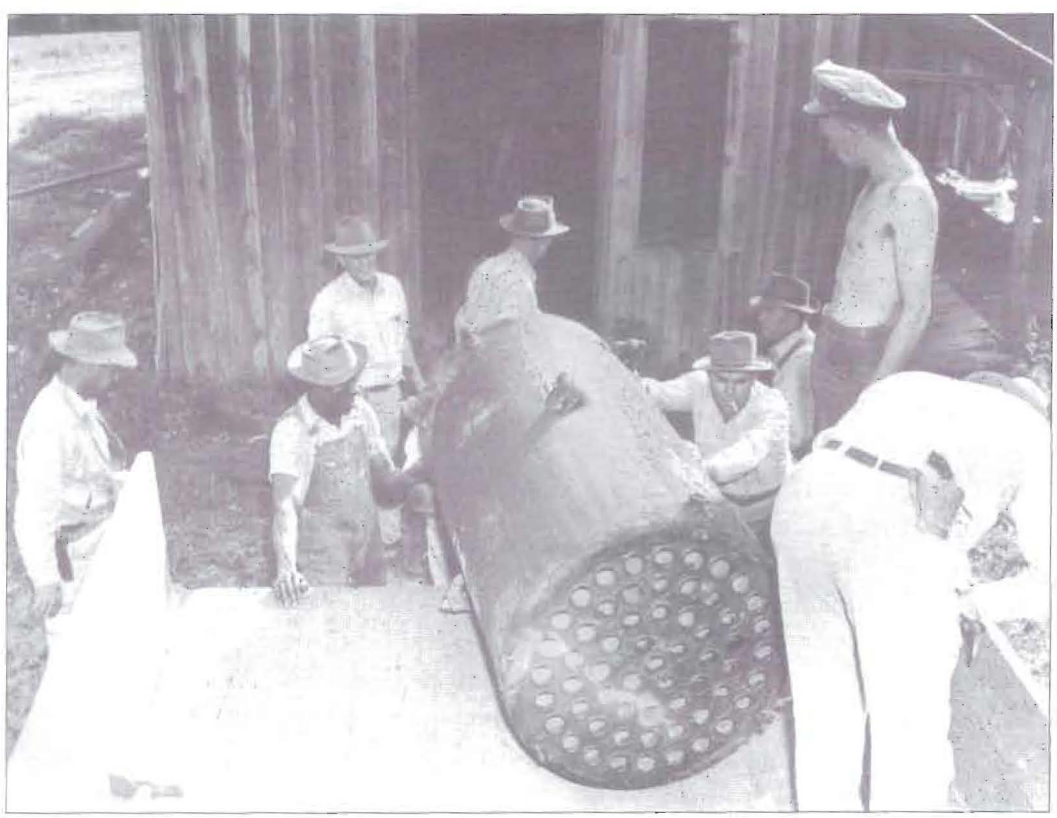
William J. "Bill" Gordy was born into the pottery tradition on May 18, 1910 in Fayette County, Georgia. As the son and great-nephew of traditional southern potters, Bill grew up learning the craft of the folk potter.

After his marriage in 1931, he left his father's shop and traveled to various potteries throughout the south where he worked and gained experience under the instruction of a number of well established potters.

In 1935 Bill Gordy located his studio in Cartersville along the famous Dixie Highway (Highway 41) and enjoyed great success. His pottery became so collectible that customers would arrive in the early morning hours to stake a place in line for a piece of pottery unloaded from the kiln the day before.

Bill Gordy died in 1993. His grandson, Darrell Adams, carries on the family's pottery tradition.

This photograph was copied from the original in a scrapbook kept by **Bartow County Sheriff Frank Atwood** who served from 1949 until 1964. During Atwood's term in office, Bartow County had its share of moonshine stills and Sheriff Atwood had his share of "breaking up" those stills.



FROM THE BOOKSHELF & On the Web

The Power of the Blues:
Fort Valley Blues Festival 1938 - 1943

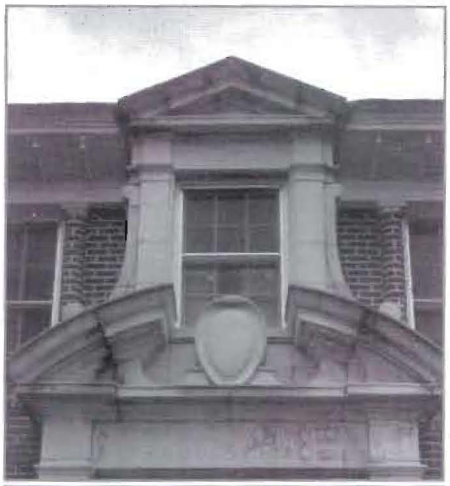
Reviewed by: Daves Rossell

The power of the blues is its variety and adaptation to many settings and times. The power of blues is its constancy. Seemingly locked to twelve bars and three-chord progressions, the blues should have died a boring death a long time ago. But, sometimes plaintive, sometimes joyous, and sometimes sick-and-tired angry yells continue to float across fields and pierce the night of hard-edged cities. The blues, as bluesman Sid Wallace narrated in Clayton Love's "Blues Come Home: History of the Delta Blues," "was born in Mississippi, raised in Memphis, Tennessee, and drifted through Texas on the way to Chicago where it has lived in the hearts and minds of blues lovers for nearly a century now." And while that is true, the blues is nearly everywhere and it's certainly in Georgia. It is a gift of the African-American experience constantly culling beauty from an often ugly world. The blues wends its way across the country and across time so as to rise higher as an artistic statement and delve deeper in the American soul.

Recently rising in popularity after a lull, the blues is better at coming alive than it is at dying. One treasure trove of the blues world is the *Fort Valley Rural Folk Festival in Fort Valley, Georgia, 1938-1943*, just made accessible through the Library of Congress website. The festival featured both religious and secular music and was held deep in the agricultural piedmont of Georgia at Fort Valley State College (now Fort Valley State University) in Peach County, south of Macon. Begun as just an extension of an agricultural fair held since 1915, the musical component was the first such folk festival in America by and for the African-American community. Music from the fair is virtually the only noncommercial recording of blues in the Southeast from the 1940s. Once tuned in on the web, the music provides a lightning bolt back to the roots of acoustic country blues of the likes of Blind Arthur Blake, perhaps the most famous bluesman of early Georgia.

Some of the songs that were played at the festival, like "John Henry," are familiar standards and might easily lull a listener to simple toe-tapping. But what is great about this site's selection is that so many of the songs are unusual and different. Instead of "John Henry" there is the great gospel "John the Revelator" or the "Milk Cow Blues," or even "My Fat Hipted Mamma." There are four versions of the great "If I had my way, I'd tear the building down."

And there is nearly always a larger story being told. When W. C. Handy attended the show in 1942, he was treated to so many variations of his "St. Louis Blues" that he "wept with joyous laughter" and was prompted to pull out his gold trumpet and play his own version. Handy commented that what was significant was not that his or, indeed, any popular music was being played but rather that what was performed largely reflected people making new music, outside the dominance of radio and records. This roughcast folk tradition offended some leading Black intellectuals seeking to distance themselves from their rural roots, and the festival was ultimately forced to close in 1955 due to student ridiculing of the country players. But this out-of-the-mainstream quality is what made the festival so special at the time and such a treasure today.



Without these recordings we would have little idea of the hold that folk traditions kept so late in the century.

Another legacy, perhaps even more important, is that the songs can thrust you into important historical moments of social conflict or political unease. Several songs relate the life of a black soldier fighting a white man's war, or just a civilian supporting the cause. "I'm on the Battlefield," and "Obey the Ration Laws," and "Let's Go Fight" speak to urgent concerns. Some like "Roosevelt and Hitler" talk in rather personal terms to then President Franklin Delano Roosevelt thanking him for his concern and help. Buster Ezell's throaty "Do Right by my Country" about World War II extols the Lord to "Do right by my country, do right by me, we're dying to set my country free."

Others are not so particular in terms of their social history, but they all express a moment when rural acoustic blues was confronting electricity and amplification. Fort Valley was on the cusp of an age. One can still hear the banjo, a classic African percussive instrument, but there were also a few electric guitars, bringing the zing of the big city. Fort Valley stopped holding the folk festival when its patrons wanted more popular and citified music, but the festival recorded how deep traditions were and, indeed, how deep they have in many cases remained.

The Fort Valley Blues Festival website can be accessed through the Library of Congress site at www.loc.gov. From the Library of Congress, click on American Memory, Click on Collection Finder, Click on Sound Recordings, Click on African-American Music and the Fort Valley page will pop up. There are approximately 100 recordings of which two thirds are gospel and one third are blues. You may browse by type of music, performer or title. There is a chapter on the festival from Bruce Bastin's authoritative *Red River Blues*, as well as biographies of the field recorders, information about the collection, a map of the region, a capsule history of the creation of the site, a bibliography, and ordering information for recordings. Related sites available through the American Memory page, but representing work of the American Folklife Center, include John and Mabel Lomax's epic 1939 southern recordings, northern California music of the 1930s, fiddle tunes from southern Appalachia, and oral history from the Dust Bowl among many others. The beauty in this collection of music is in large part due to the tremendous effort at the American Folklife Center and the Library of Congress as a whole.

Books relating to the Fort Valley Blues Festival, Georgia blues, or blues in general include Bruce Bastin's authoritative *Red River Blues: The Blues Tradition in the Southeast* of 1986, and the classic by vernacularist Paul Oliver entitled *Blues Fell This Morning: The Meaning of the Blues* of 1961.

Daves Rossell is a professor at the Savannah College of Art and Design

GEORGIA STATE PARKS & Historic Sites

Pickett's Mill Battlefield

West Georgia

Pickett's Mill is one of the best preserved Civil War battlefields in the nation according to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

The Battle of Pickett's Mill occurred on May 27, 1864 when the Federal Army attempted to outflank the Confederate position. After a five-hour march, 14,000 Federal troops under the command of General Oliver O. Howard reached Malachi Pickett's farm and mill where 10,000 Confederates commanded by General Patrick R. Cleburne waited. Howard launched the attack around 5 o'clock p.m. and the battle went on into the night. The Confederate forces held their positions losing around 500 men compared to the Federal loss of 1,600. The Battle of Pickett's Mill delayed the Federal advance on Atlanta for one week.

Located 5 miles northeast of Dallas off GA Hwy. 381 on Tabor Church Road, accessed by Dallas-Acworth Road or Due West Road.

For More Information:
Pickett's Mill Battlefield State Historic Site
770-443-7850
www.gastateparks.org

Relive the vibrant past of Cobb County...

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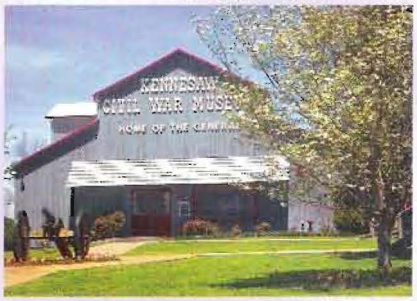
Kennesaw Civil War Museum



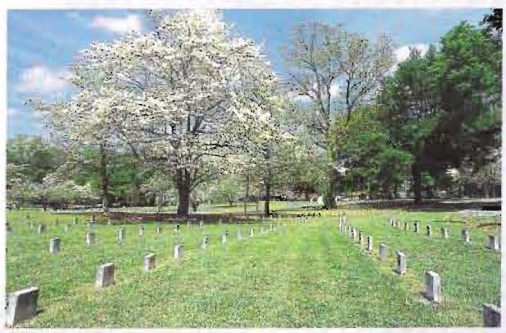
Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield

From its earliest beginnings as home to Native Americans to its pivotal role in the Civil War, Cobb County is full of diverse history. Explore our rich past, while enjoying the modern amenities of today:

- Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield – walk the fields where the Confederacy once made a courageous attempt to protect Atlanta.
- Kennesaw Civil War Museum & The General – see the famous locomotive stolen by Union soldiers and hear the wild adventure that ensued.
- National Historic Districts – stroll through one of our five National Historic Districts, packed with antebellum homes, museums and even a covered bridge.
- Marietta Museum of History – explore this comprehensive museum that details the area's history starting with Native American settlements.
- National Cemeteries – Marietta features both Confederate and Union cemeteries.

Concord Covered Bridge

1848 House



Confederate Cemetery

Antique Shop

Plus, take home a piece of the past from one of Cobb's cozy antique shops, found among the county's many unique shopping areas.

The Cobb County Convention & Visitors Bureau can help plan your trip through history, call today!

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(800) 451-3480, (678) 303-COBB
www.cobbcvb.com

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CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

satisfy your mind...

Explore Augusta's Museums

discover our attractions...

The Cotton Exchange Welcome Center & Museum

Open Monday - Saturday 9am-5pm, Sunday 1-5pm.

8th & Reynolds at Riverwalk

(706) 724-4067

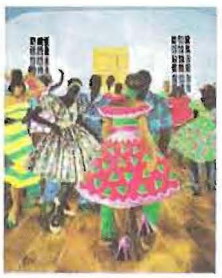
immerse yourself in science...

The National Science Center's Fort Discovery

Open Monday - Saturday 10am-5pm. Sunday 12-5pm.

7th Street at Riverwalk

(706) 821-0200



enjoy the arts...

Morris Museum of Art

Art & Artists of the South

Open Tuesday - Saturday 10am-5:30pm, Sunday 12:30-5:30pm.

10th Street at Riverwalk

(706) 724-7501

appreciate our African-American heritage...

Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History

Open Monday - Friday 9am-3pm Open by Appointment on Weekends and Holidays

1116 Phillips Street

(706) 724-3576

and experience our region's rich history!

Augusta Museum of History

Open Tuesday - Saturday 10am-5pm. Sunday 1-5pm.

6th & Reynolds at Riverwalk

(706) 722-8454

Augusta Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau
800-726-0243 www.augustaga.org

Discover Augusta This Weekend

Augusta has been a crossroads of commerce and cultures since Native Americans met to trade near the shores of the Savannah River. Today, Augusta is not only a vibrant, contemporary city, but also a living history museum whose story is written in its buildings and along its boulevards. You're invited to explore both our rich heritage and modern amenities.

Discover Augusta's history, from colonial trading post and Revolutionary War fortification, to Civil War hospital and playground of the Gilded Age. With nine National Register historic districts, Augusta abounds in antiques and architectural treasures.

All along downtown's Broad Street Artist's Row you'll discover surprises large and small. Spend an afternoon on Riverwalk and you'll encounter museums of art, history and science, along with eight magnificently landscaped acres of the Augusta Golf and Gardens attraction.

The first place to visit in Augusta is the Cotton Exchange Welcome Center and Museum. The helpful Visitor Information Specialists will acquaint you with Augusta's many attractions and give you a personal tour of the fascinating museum of cotton cultivation and commerce.

To plan your Augusta weekend, or to get a free 56-page visitor guide, call the Augusta Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau at 800-726-0243 or visit www.augustaga.org