



The CCHS *Newsletter*

Carroll County Historical Society

P. O. Box 1308

Carrollton, GA 30112

MARCH 2013

*Carroll County Historical Society's Meeting
Tuesday, March 19 at 6:30 PM
Neva Lomason Library*

Alan Kuyhendall will be our guest speaker at the March meeting. He was born in Atlanta and at age 8 his family moved to Blairsville, Ga. where he grew up. Alan came to Carrollton to study art at West Georgia College. He has lived in Carrollton since then creating and sharing his art in many formats. He paints in many mediums from water colors to murals to oils, even branching out to comic strips and store windows at times. Alan has also become a sculptor reportedly growing out of a childhood fascination with PlayDoh. He has taught many of Carrollton's children in the summer arts workshops.

Scott Eldred, CCHS Program Chairman, recently had the pleasure of visiting Alan in his studio and described him as a fascinating artist and personality. The word is that Alan is working on a book and will tell us about it as well as introduce some of this art and sculpture.

Come and welcome Alan, learn about his art, and get to know the artist.

Come and join us! You will be glad you did.

an interview with **Wilma Hamrick Upchurch**



Wilma Hamrick Upchurch

Wilma Ann Hamrick Upchurch can trace her Hamrick ancestry back to Patrick Hamrick, born in Ireland in 1684, and her husband's Upchurch line to Michael Upchurch who came to America in 1631. Nine generations later, Wilma was born in 1928 to James Mayfield Hamrick and Mattie Gaston Hamrick, both from Carroll County since the early 1800s. It took about 150 years for the Hamricks to travel from Prince William County, Virginia, down through Wilkes County, North Carolina, through Wilkes County, Georgia, through Jasper county, Georgia, through Upson County, Georgia, through Henry County, Georgia, and finally into Carroll County.

There are many family stories about these ancestors. Worthy of note is Benjamin Hamrick, who lived to be at least 93 and fought at Kings Mountain under Capt. John Cleveland and Col. Benjamin Cleveland. He also fought in the Battle of Ramseurs Mill. Benjamin was born in Virginia and is buried in Upson County, GA. But his military exploits do not surpass those

of his great grandson James Martin Hamrick, Jr. who fought in the War Between the States (otherwise known as the War of Northern Aggression), was wounded, and awakened one day after being unconscious in the morgue for three days but very much alive, and having lost his right hand in battle. This James lived out his life in Carroll County and is buried in Villa Rica. He outlived two wives, married a third, and has many descendants in Carroll County.

In the middle of the depression years, Wilma's father James Mayfield Hamrick relocated to Birmingham, Alabama because he could find work there, and that was where Wilma was born and lived until coming back to the Jordan (another family line - Wilma's grandmother was a Jordan) farm five years later. Wilma went to school for two years in Sand Hill, and remembers being in Miss Billie Combs class there. The Jordan land was a large tract between Carrollton and Villa Rica near Bethany Christian Church where the family could walk to church. Wilma was the youngest of four children: Joe Thomas, James Mayfield Jr., Mary Helen, and Wilma Ann.

At Carrollton High School during World War II, Wilma took part in patriotic events like selling war bonds. In fact, she and her friend Louise Herndon (Powers) (Lambert) won awards for selling the most war bonds. The students wore bomber pins and small flags on their lapels (both of Wilma's brothers were in the Air Force). And at least once, school was cancelled so that the students could pick cotton for the farmers in the area who were shorthanded due to the war. At this time, Carroll led the state in the number of individually owned farms, and farmers needed help in "getting the crop in." Wilma invited her friend Louise, and Tommie Hinesley (Byrd) and three others to pick cotton at her father's farm. She remembers her mother coming from the house to the fields with cool water. Between them, the six students managed to pick 100 pounds of cotton! (Those in the know about cotton know that one person can easily pick that much a day.)

Wilma had always known the Upchurch family, and when James asked her for a date one Friday afternoon, she "stood up" her already arranged date to go with James to church that night. Wilma had been in town and was on the Square headed for the bus station for her ride back home, when she met James there. She was a junior in high school. Later she would ask him to go to her Senior Prom. It was 1944. It took only a short while to know that the young people were very much in love, and they were married before graduation in 1945. At graduation exercise rehearsal, the young couple found out that they were not going to be allowed to sit together, and they walked out in indignation. Imagine their surprise when the whole senior class arose and walked out in protest behind them!

There followed a long and happy marriage, (the word “uproarious” comes to mind), with five children of their own, and three children who needed a home and was raised by them. Their five children: Marian Upchurch (Aguillard), Martha Upchurch, Mary Lou Upchurch Grimmett, James Shields Upchurch Jr., and Patrick Steven Upchurch. As if that were not enough, Wilma and James chaperoned many youth outings, including one well-remembered trip with high school kids to Washington, DC., and a now-famous taffy pull. Wilma’s and James’s life together has been one of giving: to young people through a myriad of church activities, to children in need of love and a home, to city and church and community. Wilma is a pleasure to know, and is continuing to touch and affect many lives.

A Message from our President - Dr. Jack L. Crews

I want to let you know that your Board Members are working hard and diligently on behalf of our society. We met on the first Tuesday night of this month and had another very productive working session. Among the problems addressed were membership, finances, programs, and projects. We now have active chairpersons for all committees and the work of the society is moving forward.

It is gratifying to report good attendance at our last general meeting, with 33 members present.

I must give credit to all our Board Members. I greatly admire and appreciate their enthusiasm and willingness to attack some sticky problems which have existed over time in our society. With their help and your continued support we will move forward with confidence. I look forward to seeing you all at our next general meeting on Tuesday March 19th.

WANTED— Dead or Alive

CCHS wants old photos of Carroll County people, buildings, events, etc. Photos will be copied and returned if you would like. Please identify the people, location, and other information you know.

Does anyone have photos showing people at the depot or boarding the train? If so, please contact a Board Member or bring the photos to the meeting.

**CCHS BOARD MEMBERS
FOR 2013**

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Vice President	Scott Eldred
Past President	Dr, Mel Steely
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Please renew your membership for 2013.