



# The CCHS *Newsletter*

Carroll County Historical Society

P. O. Box 1308

Carrollton, GA 30112

SEPTEMBER 2014

## *September Historical Society Meeting*

This month we resume our regular meeting schedule on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. This month's meeting will preview plans for the *Spirits of Depot Street* that will be presented on October 25th. It is hard to believe that it has been ten years since we did the Ghost Walk on the Square. It was a big success because of the efforts of many of our members. It was written and produced by Gwyn Chesnut and John Carter Clay. Carrollton's historic "characters" were played by Blair Trehwhitt, Tracey Stallings, Joe Cumming, Bill Maddox, Sam Pyle, Dorothy Pitman, Doyle Akin, Curtis Spivey, Marilyn Hubbard, and many others.

Come and find out which of Carrollton's ghosts will be featured this year and who will be portraying them. You may even have the opportunity to volunteer to represent one of them. In addition, we need about 6 more guides to escort groups to the various event stations.

President Jack Crews will brief us on plans for the year. Vice President Scott Eldred and Peter Worthy will let us in on some upcoming programs. Gwyn Chesnut will sign up volunteers to complete the cast of characters and roster of guides. As always, Donna Eldred and Janice Ivester will provide refreshments with coffee.

Please plan to attend this very important kick-off meeting.

*Carroll County Historical Society's Meeting*  
*Tuesday, September 16th at 6:30 PM*  
*Stallings Community Center Lions Parks Room*

## The Carroll County Alms House and Cemetery

Carole Scott

Back before workmen's compensation, unemployment benefits, or social security, people who could not support themselves had to depend on the charity of their relatives, friends, or local government. Local governments provided help to those without other means of support. This help came in the form of money or allowing them to live in what was often called the poor house or the poor farm. Those needing long term help were allowed to live at what was called the poor farm. These eventually became simply homes for the needy elderly. In Carroll County the facility was called the Alms House located at 512 Old Newnan Road. In Carrollton.

County alms houses were first established in the United States in 1839. Paupers of both sexes would do farm work and their children would attend local schools. Initially, the mentally impaired were also housed at the county alms houses. Alms houses were converted to homes for the elderly early in the 20th century.

Carrollton businesswoman Phyllis Holloway remembers visits when she was a child in the 1960's to the elderly living at the Carroll County Alms House by members of the West Carrollton Baptist Church. She says the children accompanied their parents on the visits on Sunday and at Christmas. On Sundays they took folding chairs and song books from which they sang before sermons by the pastor, evangelists, or laymen like her father.

At Christmas they took gifts to the residents. She says that the residents were glad to see the kids who also had a good time. She recalls the residents "making over" the kids. At Christmas the Women's Missionary Union made boxes containing small gifts, mainly toiletries. She remembers that the old folks were thrilled with them. The old ladies, who she can still see "in her mind", were sweet.

She remembers pretty, big trees around the Alms House, and that there were rocking chairs on the porch. The interior of the house reminded her of a school. In the summer there was always a breeze blowing down the central hallway. Residents rooms were on each side of the hall; women on one side and men on the other. Each room had three or four beds, which were made up neatly. Each person had their own space. The beds had iron frames and the rooms were "real clean and neat". There was also a lunchroom and a large room where Sunday afternoon services were held— probably monthly.

The Summer 2010 edition of *The Carroll County Genealogical Quarterly* are entries from the Carroll County Pauper Book from 1904 to 1906. These entries include both requests for money to enable paupers to feed, clothe, and house themselves or to cover their burial expenses and requests for them to be housed at the poor farm.

An entry dated November 22, 1904, reads "Emmie WRIGHT, col. Without relatives and entirely incapable of self support; recommend that she be received at the poor farm. She is now being cared for by ALEX Dobbs who has supported her for the past twelve years, though not related to her, and who declares he is no longer able to do so."

An entry dated November 8, 1905, reads: "Mary A. WHITAKER, PETITIONERS OF THE 882 Dist. Asking that Mary A. Whitaker be placed in the Poor House; not able to make a living and no relatives to care for her."

A March 8, 1906, entry reads: "Sam S. BONNER, col., a pauper lying dead at Vincey Lester's in Carrollton, left no means to pay for his burial expenses." Noted is that \$5, apparently the standard amount, was ordered to be furnished. (The county pauper cemetery is located within walking distance from the Alms House and the old Carroll County Prison. See photo on next page.)

An entry dated April 23, 1906, reads: "Mrs. Cora AYERS, a widow with six children, the oldest a girl only 13 years old. Mrs. Ayers has been sick nearly all spring and in bed lots of her time; needy circumstances and needs some help as they haven't sufficient clothes to go to meeting. Petitioners asking for \$6 per month for this year until her oldest boy gets large enough to plow."



The Carroll County Historical Society presented a new sign for the Carroll County Alms House Cemetery on Horsley Mill Road in Carrollton.

Dr. Jack Crews, President of the Society, is shown here with Sammy Eady, Carroll County Coroner, making the final adjustments to the new sign.

## Carrollton to Present its *New Spirits of Depot Street*

The Carrollton Historic Preservation Commission and the Carroll County Historical Society will present the *Spirits of Depot Street* Ghost Walk Re-enactment on Saturday, October 25, 2014, in the historic Bradley Street and Downtown area. Ten years ago the presentation of the *Ghost Walk on the Square* was a tremendous success involving dozens of participants and several hundred attendees.

This year's presentation will highlight a number of the district's historic homes and buildings as seen through the eyes of the people who lived and worked there. Come and "meet" Charles Carroll of Carrollton, Sheriff Jiles Boggess, Mayor Thomas J. Bradley, Judge W. C. Adamson, Sanford Kingsberry, and others who were early contributors to our great community!

Escorted tours will start regularly from 4:00 to 6:00.

**Plan to be there!**

**Spirits of  
Depot Street**

HISTORIC BRADLEY ST.

**Oct. 25, 2014**  
Tours begin at 4 pm - till

**Tickets \$15**  
Age 12 and under \$5

Tickets available at  
Horton's Bookstore  
Carrollton City Hall

Carroll County  
Historical Society

Carrollton Historic  
Preservation Commission

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

***Hello and Welcome Back!*** I hope everyone had a great summer.... Our Society is looking forward to a series of outstanding programs during the fall and winter.

Our first meeting will be devoted to the business side of things, but thereafter our programs will be strictly historical in content.

Scott Eldred and Peter Worthy are working together to assure the quality and interest of our programs. Like you, I look forward to them with great anticipation.

See you soon— hopefully at the September meeting.

- *Jack*

### 150th Anniversary of Sherman's March Through Georgia

April 2014 marks the 150th anniversary of Union General William Tecumseh Sherman's 1864 march into Georgia. Georgia Public Broadcasting and the Atlanta History Center are commemorating this extraordinary event with the original series, "***37 Weeks: Sherman on the March.***" The series brings Sherman's devastating 37-week journey across Georgia to life and highlights key turning points in the history-making trek.

Each of the 90-second "37 Weeks" segments will air multiple times on GPB's television and radio platforms during the week paralleling the same week in Sherman's campaign and tell a story that brings an understanding to the human dimension of war. What did it feel like when Sherman's army - 100 thousand strong - was bearing down on your city? What was motivating Sherman's fateful decisions? What was it like for the foot soldier on either side of the battlefield? What were some of those twists of fate or ironic moments that war inevitably produces? These are among the stories "37 Weeks" will explore.

### CCHS BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2014

President	Dr. Jack Crews
Vice President	Scott Eldred
Past President	Dr. Mel Steely
Secretary	Rebecca Fordyce
Treasurer	Meredith Barr
Membership	Susan Vandiver
Newsletter	Janice Ivester
Archives	Gwyn Chesnut

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