



The CCHS **Newsletter**

Carroll County Historical Society

P. O. Box 1308

Carrollton, GA 30112

SEPTEMBER 2016

Gwyn Chesnut to Speak on Historic Carroll Families– Stevens and Holmes

Gwyn Chesnut will speak to the Historical Society at its September general meeting. Gwyn grew up in Carrollton and has devoted her time to collecting, preserving, and sharing Carroll County history for all her adult life. She is a former Historical Society President, and has been reappointed by Gov. Nathan Deal to serve another two year term on the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Council (GHRAC). It has twelve members representing citizens, educators, local governments, historical repositories, and professional organizations. GHRAC works to ensure that Georgians of all ages are aware of the significant historical records located statewide, to enhance the preservation and care of those treasures, and to improve the access that Georgians have to their records.

Her presentation will explore the Stevens, Holmes, and related old families of Carrollton. She recently had a call from perhaps the last living member of the Stevens family who now lives in Asheville, NC. He has donated the information he has regarding the families' time in Carrollton to the Historical Society. She will be showing photos and written materials she has collected. Friends who have known the families through the years will be invited to share their personal recollections during the program.

Tuesday, September 20th, at 6:30 PM
Stallings Community Center Lions Parks Room
The public is cordially invited.
Light refreshments will be provided.

Visit the CCHS Web-site at <http://www.carrollcountyhistory.org>

President's Message

The Battle of Moore's Bridge

Hello to everyone and welcome back. I hope everyone had a peaceful and restful summer... I know everyone had a HOT summer! But just think of the soldiers on both sides of the War Between the States- July 1864 was decidedly hot and all the soldiers were dressed in wool uniforms.

Sherman was stalemated north of Atlanta but confident of ultimate success; so much so that he wanted to send cavalry columns down each bank of the Chattahoochee to check accuracy of his maps and of his general knowledge of all bridges, ferries, or other river crossings south of Atlanta. Accordingly, the cavalry column, under Major General George Stoneman, departed July 9th and headed south down the west bank of the river. Stoneman was a West Point graduate, Class of 1846, when he had been roommate with a quiet Virginian named Thomas J. Jackson, who today is better known as "Stonewall" Jackson.

His mission was to destroy any manufacturing facilities, mills, or anything else that would give sustenance to the Confederates. After burning some factories at Campbellton, they continued to move southward on the west bank, looting and burning farms, stealing all the farm animals. While still up river from Moore's Bridge, a unionist farmer told them of a bridge (Moore's Bridge) only a few miles further downstream.

At Moore's Bridge a small detachment of Confederate troops idled away the morning... thinking the nearest Yankee was no closer than Atlanta.... Most of them were swimming naked in the river to get relief from the heat. Stoneman's column came on them so unexpectedly that they were all captured quick as a wink. Only one escaped to the east bank, which he scrambled up and ran all the way to Newnan to give the alarm. Luckily he was able to get some trousers at a farm house before reaching Newnan.

Luckily, Confederate Brigadier General Frank C. Armstrong's brigade of Mississippi Cavalry was patrolling down the east bank of the river. His brigade consisted of three Mississippi regiments, one Kentucky regiment, and a battery of Missouri artillery commanded by Capt. Sam Houston King. His battery consisted of two 3-inch ordnance rifles, accurate and deadly in experienced hands. Fortunately, Capt. Houston's men were expert and experienced. General Armstrong immediately moved his command in the direction of Moore's Bridge. The Union soldiers, feeling safe and secure at the bridge, sent only a small picket of men to the east bank where they dug some rifle pits and settled to guard the east end of the bridge. General Armstrong's scouts reported to him that the east end of the bridge was only lightly defended and that the , main body of Federals were camped on the west bank. General Armstrong then ordered his troops to dismount and advance on foot while Capt. Houston got his ordnance rifles in position. This done, he waited for daylight to come.

At first light, a column of Yankee horsemen, cantered slowly toward the west entrance to the bridge, as if there were "not a Rebel within 20 miles." The ordnance rifles, supported by dismounted cavalry, opened a hot fire on the blue column, scattering blue-jacketed troops in all directions. Seeing that they were in danger of being overrun, the troops in the rifle pits scrambled out and sprinted across the bridge.

Stoneman's column had a couple of pieces of "flying artillery", probably small mountain howitzers, with which they returned fire toward the east bank. The battle then roared to a crescendo until it became obvious that the small Federal guns were no match for the ordnance rifles. General Stoneman, somewhat rattled by the sudden appearance of Gen. Armstrong's Brigade and especially his ordnance guns, decided to attempt to burn the bridge and abandon any further movement.

A Federal Lt. William Ballard of the 1st Kentucky Regiment volunteered to torch the bridge (which had already been mined by the Confederates in case they needed to burn it). Through a hail of bullets Lt. Ballard dashed to the bridge with a flaming torch and touched off the already planted tender. Running a similar gauntlet, he returned safely to his comrades. Since the bridge had already been stuffed with straw, pine knots, dry planks, etc., it readily exploded into flames and in only a few minutes the bridge slid off its pilings and plunged into the river.

Gen. Stoneman at this point ordered his brigades to fall back into the tree line and slowly disengage, using the river as a barrier against any pursuit by the Confederates. He then ordered his entire command to retire back up the west bank, retracing their route back to Sherman's lines.

Thus ended the fight at Moore's Bridge- the only Carroll County battle during the Civil War. Moore's Bridge today is the object of much attention and is one of the main objectives of our Society's effort to understand, preserve, and promote the multi-faceted history of the bridge, the Moore House, and the beautiful Chattahoochee River area.

Best Regards—

Jack Crews



Dr. Jack Crews, President of the Carroll County Historical Society, retells the story of the Civil War battle that took place at Moore's Bridge and House in July 1864. Approximately 90 members and guests attended the annual picnic held on the grounds of the Moore House on the banks of the Chattahoochee River adjacent to Moore's Bridge.



Peter Worthy's Civil War Brass Cannon fires from the bluff overlooking the Chattahoochee River and Moore's Bridge.



Sons of Confederate Veterans McDaniel-Curtis Camp 165 fire a volley across the

Request for Family Stories

CCHS wants your Carroll County Family stories for the Newsletters and for the Museum files. If you have collected genealogy information or have family stories that have been handed down, please contact the Society and let us help you document them.

Every member has information to share that would be of interest to other members. If you don't act soon to save those stories, they may be lost forever.

Please act now to preserve your part of Carroll County history!

GEORGE WASHINGTON, LEADERSHIP, AND GLOBAL REVOLUTION

ARE THERE LESSONS FROM THE FIRST BREXIT
FOR THE MODERN WORLD?

An Evening with Dr. Ed Lengel

*Editor in Chief, The Papers of George Washington
Professor and Director, Center for Digital Editing
University of Virginia*

Join us as the Georgia Historical Society and the UVaClub of Savannah present a conversation with Dr. Ed Lengel of the University of Virginia and Dr. Stan Deaton of the Georgia Historical Society discussing topics from the Founding Fathers to global conflicts to presidential elections.

**Thursday, September 29, 2016
6:00 p.m.**

First Baptist Church
223 Bull Street, Savannah, GA 31401

Free and Open to the Public. A selection of Dr. Lengel's books will be available for purchase and signing following the program.

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Phone: (678) 664-0662

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