

JULY 2020 | VOLUME 3

CHIPLEY HISTORICAL CENTER

The Official Newsletter, Pine Mountain, Georgia



PROGRESS CONTINUES AT THE CHIPLEY HISTORY CENTER

By Mary Jo Cox and Lou Brackett

Except for doors, the new building is dried in and the electrical and plumbing systems have been installed. Although the construction is progressing, the Board of Directors has made the decision to remain closed until this fall to allow time for some repair work, painting, and reorganization in the current building and for the COVID19 virus threat to decline. There will be a grand opening later in the fall once all work is completed. In the meantime, you can continue to show your support through the purchase of commemorative bricks, memberships volunteering and donations. Bricks can be purchased by completing the brick purchase form on the web page at: chipleyhistoriccenter.org or through the form included in this newsletter. The Center is always looking for more volunteers. Contact the Center at 706-663-4044 and leave a message or send an email to info@chipleyhistoriccenter.org to volunteer. Donations can be mailed to the Center at P.O. Box 1055, Pine Mountain, GA 31822. Chipley Historical Center is a 501(c)3 organization and donations may be are deductible.

Thanks Tennessee
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Thank you to our newest partner, Tennessee Wholesale nursery. They are donating plants each spring and fall to the Chipley Historical Center. We will be begin planting our new landscape in a few weeks.

Letter from the Chair

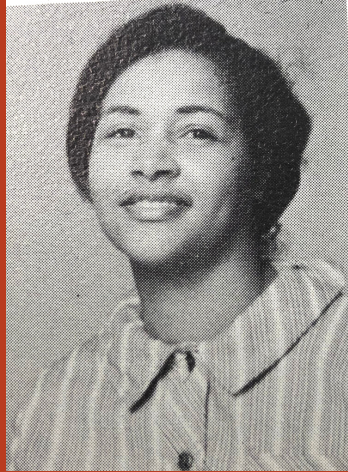


It's been a CRAZY year thus far. The Chipley Historical Center still has not opened to the public because of the virus. Our new facility has stopped and re-started. We also had issues with one of the suppliers for our new facility. I'm told the real estate business is booming with all the people wanting to move out of the city. We hope they will stop by the Historical Center when it reopens. We will not re-open until after September 1 and it may be much later than that. We are concerned about the majority of the people that volunteer or visit being in the most vulnerable category. In the meantime we have some very dedicated volunteers that have been helping out. We expect to do some minor remodeling of the old facility while we are shut down and at a minimum we plan to repaint the walls and maybe the ceiling, take up the old carpet and maybe just stain the concrete underneath. And we will be reorganizing our collection, some might stay in the old building and some be moved to the new facility. We have to box it up anyway in order to paint and take up the carpet. Many thanks to Mary Jo Cox for keeping the new building on track, to Cindy Bowden and Lou Brackett for cataloging and organizing our collection. And of course, Malinda Brooks keeps us on track with the history of the area.

Have you walked on the new walking path in downtown Pine Mountain? It's the one created from the old railroad bed rails to trails and it's called Man O' War Trail. Harris County was the first required by the State of Georgia to put up historical interpretative panels for this project. The first of several is installed across the street from the Tourism building and tells of the trains that went through Chipley/Pine Mountain. You can't miss it, there is a small roof over it. Some of the information came from the internet but some came from the Chipley Historical Center. I've been working with Susanne Newberry of Southern Research to help locate materials suitable for this panel and some of the others they plan to install.

We'll be deciding whether or not to have our annual Boston Butt sale in the future. Meanwhile, drop me a line and let me know if you are interested in buying one given the current virus situation. My email is mrm439@gmail.com. If we find people are still too nervous for that, we'll put it off for another time.

Remembering Gladys Roberts



Gladys Roberts passed away on May 18, 2020. She was a founding Board Member of the Chipley Historical Center. Throughout the years she served on the Collecting and Reviewing committee, the Membership committee and the Refreshment committee. Perhaps you remember her best as the Veterans' Day Program refreshment lady.

Gladys was the Chair of the Black History committee where she was influential in obtaining information on businesses, churches and cemeteries.

She was a hard worker who was devoted to the Historical Center throughout the years. We will miss her smiling face and many contributions.

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Coming Soon!

Coming soon to the Chipley Historical Center - The Rise and Fall of "Old" Hood, 1880 - 1882.

Hood was just a railroad village, located about a mile south of Chipley. When the Columbus and Rome railroad extended to Chipley, now Pine Mountain, things changed. Look for a date and time for the program in upcoming newsletters.

A Volunteer's First Impressions

by P.D. Striplin

The excitement of seeing the new building moving forward inspires me to write about my volunteer experience at the Chipley Historical Center. So many local people have donated meaningful items and records that represents the families here from the 1800's into the 21st Century.

Beginning in February, I unlocked the door and stepped into the unknown of what occupies the building. Big locks on the jail cell doors made of welded iron ribbons incarcerated more than a few folks. Names are scratched on one wall. Perhaps one day a student will research the life of one soul sifting through the records to identify him. Each person had some history with Pine Mountain.

Glass cases full of memorabilia ranging from the Korean War, World Wars I and II, to antique medical equipment of doctors who cared for multiple generations, and to church records representing Pine Mountain's communities are neatly organized into eye catching displays. Old town photos and maps prove the town's growth and tribulations. I discover the old photographs and newspapers.

The recommended Volunteer to-do list by the door is an outline of possibilities, but step one for me is understanding what the Chipley Historical Center is, what it has, and what it offers people. I try to note how it is organized so I may answer questions quickly. Luckily, some good Volunteer souls have systematically catalogued each item noting who made the donation and establishing a numerical reference to it. This level of organization creates immense value to those researching their roots.

My first telephone call was a gentleman from Detroit who had completed a 23&Me DNA analysis and discovered he has third generation relatives in Pine Mountain. He had documented that his great, great, great grandfather had been a slave on a cotton plantation in the Pine Mountain area. Additionally, he had found in the State archives census data showing his father had been incarcerated in a Middle Georgia prison. Vice-Chair Malinda Brooks documented his crime as theft in Harris County. Upon paying his dues to society, he left Georgia for Detroit in the 1870's to improve his fortunes in the industrial North. His family can now continue to write their family history.

If you choose to join the Volunteer Brigade of the Chipley Historical Center, you will be impressed with both their organization, and "how" it is organized. Every Volunteer has a value, find yours.



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A Volunteer's Value "Pandemic 100 Years Earlier"

By P.D. Striplin

Those of you who are in the health care industry may recall the name of Rupert Blue. Following a medical degree from University of Maryland, he interned at the Marine Hospital Service which later became known as the Public Health Service (PHS). His career took him to the 1900-1904 San Francisco bubonic plague epidemic, the 1905 New Orleans yellow fever outbreak where on both, he crystalized the value of good public hygiene. He was appointed Surgeon General of the United States under a Republican in January 1912, and also served under a Democrat President until March 1920. Under his watch at the PHS, bacteriology moved to the forefront as did public health sanitation and education initiatives. But historically, despite his successes and the end of his career at the League of Nations, his legacy will always be overshadowed by the Spanish Flu epidemic that killed 675,000 Americans. Surgeon General Rupert Blue was my great grand uncle.

Ask questions of your loved one's life experiences and document it for your children. In 1918 wearing a mask was not a political statement. It shouldn't be now either. Stay safe.

Call MaryJo Cox and talk about what you are interested in doing as a volunteer.. Her number is:
404-660-3514



New Man O' War Trail historical interpretative panels for the Harris County walking and bike trail. The Historical Center was able to assist by supplying the research materials.



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Buy a Brick Program

Help to support your local history by purchasing a brick. Your brick will be showcased on the floor of our new museum building.

This is a great way to honor someone special.

The bricks are only \$100. each and if you want to purchase an additional replica brick, they are only \$25. each.

YES, I want to reserve a brick. All bricks are 4" X 8" with 3 lines of text, 18 characters per line. All text are capitlized and centered. Put the following information on my brick please:

Example Brick

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N	E	V	I	L	L	E											
2	0	2	0														

Brick One

Brick Two

Please Return this Form with Your Name, Address, E-Mail and Check made payable to the [ChIPLEY Historical Center](#). Thank you for your help.

Your Name:

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Remember Air Mail

By Lou Brackett

How many of you remember Air Mail? With today's electronic, nearly instant communication it's hard to remember that in the mid-twentieth century air mail was the quickest way to get a letter across the nation. Sending a letter by air mail cost more but guaranteed that it would get there as quickly as possible. While air mail in the United States actually began in 1918, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Postmaster General James A. Farley celebrated its twentieth anniversary with National Air Mail Week May 15-21, 1938. Air mail week included the design of a special 6-cent red eagle stamp. Each city was also encouraged to design and use a special stamp on the air mail letters, called a cachet, that represented something special about their location. Many airline companies, including the now defunct Eastern Air Lines, got their start by flying air mail. Although flying the mail was somewhat dangerous in the early days, the government did pay well for the service, and the contracts often kept small air lines aloft until passenger service finally took hold. The History Center recently received an air mail envelope postmarked Chipley, May 19, 1938, using the 6-cent red eagle stamp. The envelope is also stamped with Chipley's cachet – a rendering of the Tavern at Pine Mountain State Park, now the ranger station at FDR State Park. This envelope represents several historical aspects, including the former name of the town and the state park, along with the special postage stamp and the 1938 postmark, so it is a nice addition to our center's holdings.

Native American and African American History

Needs. As we reorganize our holdings and revamp our displays, we have found that we have very few objects relating to Native Americans or African Americans in our area. If you have anything that you could donate, such as arrowheads found in the area, or photos of African American school groups, church groups, or people from the area, please contact the History Center.

Chipley Historical Center
146 North McDougald Ave.
Pine Mountain, GA 31822
