

MARCH 2021 | VOLUME 1

CHIPLEY HISTORICAL CENTER

The Official Newsletter, Pine Mountain, Georgia



NEW BUILDING UPDATE

By Mary Jo Cox

On February 1st our new building was approved by the county building inspectors. It has been a long time in coming. We started with the idea and a plan in February 2016. Thanks to Keith Summerour of Summerour Architects we had a plan and an estimated fundraising goal of \$300,000. In 2019, when we were close enough to our goal to start, we discovered prices had gone up so much in three years that we could not afford the building of our dreams. Keith assigned Mathew Russell to design us a building we could build within our budget.

We are thankful to the companies that provided pro bono work that assisted in reducing the overall budget:

Summerour Architects

Haralson & Adams did all the survey work

Janette Brock, Office Manager of Stability Engineering of Decatur, came and took pictures to go on their web page.

James Breeden of Stability Engineering of Decatur was the Project Manager.

Also, a big thank you to Billy Cobb of C & C Construction Company. We really appreciate Billy's work and how he watched the money so we would stay in budget. We have also painted the inside of the old building, leveled the floor, and replaced the carpet with laminate. Now the work has started to move into the new building and build displays. We thank all our supporters and look forward to having an open house as soon as everything is finished and it is safe to have a large gathering.

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Letter from the Chairman



“I love it when a plan comes together.” That’s what I think every time I walk into our new building. Although I haven’t been in town very long, I know that this building has been a long time coming and is the culmination of lots of work by very dedicated people, especially our building chairperson, Mary Jo Cox. But as much as I love a great plan, there have been challenges dealing with COVID-19 closings and social distancing. We closed the museum on March 17, 2020 and have yet to reopen. However, we’ve tried to make the best use of our downtime.

So, what can you expect to see when we reopen? Our old building has been painted and new floors have been laid, giving it a fresher, brighter appearance. Cindy Bowden, a member who has experience creating museum exhibits, is re-working how we tell the story of Chipley and Pine Mountain, from the Native American past to the small town Georgia present, with help from Patrick Severts and other members. We now have more storage space and room for research materials upstairs, and I am organizing and inventorying our artifacts so that we can be the best stewards of the items entrusted to us. Other members have stepped forward to contribute everything from bookcases to mop buckets, because as you all know when you build a new house you always need new stuff! Down the road a bit we hope to have a lovely garden out our back door.

When will we reopen?

We’re aiming for the summer of 2021, but a lot depends on COVID numbers and getting the virus under control so that we can reopen safely. When we do reopen, I hope everybody will join us for a celebration of a plan that has finally come together!

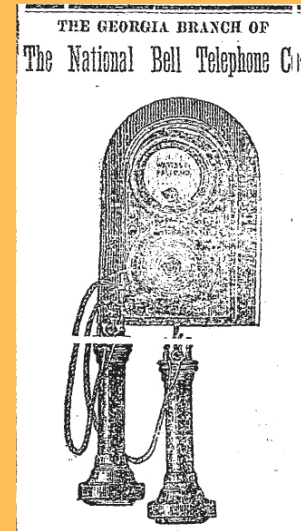
Sincerely,
Lou Brackett
Chairman and Lover of Dusty Old Things

Calendar of Talks

- Date & Time: April 18th, 2021 at 2:00
"Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the Pine Mountain Area"
Speaker: Kaye Minchew
Location: Lily Room, Callaway Gardens, Discovery Center
- Date and Time: May 16th, 2021 at 2:00
"Preserving Your Family History"
Speaker: David Owings
Location: Lily Room, Callaway Gardens, Discovery Center
- Date and Time: June 20th, 2021 at 2:00
"Troup Factory: Archaeological Investigations of a Nineteenth Century Mill Site".
Speaker: Patrick Severts
- Date and Time: August 22nd, 2021 at 2:00
"Genealogy and How to do Research in the 21st Century"
Speaker: Kenneth H. Thomas
- Date and Time: September 19th, 2021 at 2:00
"Trains, Plantations and Transportation, History of Railroads in West Georgia"
Speaker: Cindy Bowden
- Date and Time: October 10th, 2021 at 2:00
" Horace King, a 19th Century Master Builder, Engineer and Former Slave"
Speakers: Kaye Minchew and Cindy Bowden

Telephones in Chipley

The Chipley Telephone Exchange was a franchise of the Independent Telephone Exchange owned by Mr. and Mrs. A.D. David Sr. for 30 years. The operator was Mrs. Claudia Jones Davis and the switchboard was located in a bedroom in her home. The franchise was later sold to Southern Bell.



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Progress on Our New Exhibitions



Just this month we started on the new exhibition designs, research, case renovations, text panels, labels and handouts for our visitors. On the left you can see some of the new artifacts which will be featured in the prehistoric portion of our history.

This section is being curated by Patrick Severts.

We are looking for volunteers to help with painting the cases and working with the fabric boxes, no experience necessary! Just send an email to: info@chipleysthistoriccenter.org and we will be in contact with you soon.

The Georgia Humanities Council Grant Award!

We are very excited that the History Center was awarded a grant allowing us to sponsor 7 talks (see the schedule on page 3). Our first speaker was Alan Sistrunk, whose talk "Native and Historical Georgia Plants & Their Uses Through Time" was extremely interesting and well received. He told us all about how native plants can be used in our gardens, and how they were used in the past. Callaway Gardens, our community partner, welcomed our attendees with free admission for the talk.

Thank you Alan Sistrunk, Callaway Gardens and the Georgia Humanities Council.



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