

CHIPLEY HISTORICAL CENTER

The Official Newsletter, Pine Mountain, Georgia



Remembering Ken Askew by Martha Hartley

Wallace Kendrick Askew was born December 31, 1923, and died ninety-seven years later in February 2021. He was educated in Chipley schools and enrolled at Mercer University to pursue a law degree. World War II interrupted his studies for a time, but after he completed his Juris Doctorate degree, he hung his shingle in Chipley. He also served as attorney for the town of Chipley/Pine Mountain, as well as for Harris County. In 1993 he was elected Chief Magistrate for Harris County and served for eleven years.

Ken married his Chipley high school sweetheart, Marguerite Foster; they and their three children were familiar faces in the community. His family's neighborhood was just three streets from Main Street, until he developed Pine Mountain's first subdivision, Mountain Brook, still just a short walk from downtown.

In 1985 a group of "Chipley" folks determined that preserving the history and heritage of Chipley was a worthwhile endeavor. Ken Askew was at the forefront. Not only was he a founding board member of the Chipley Historical Center, he also served on the Board for over 35 years. Visitors on Saturday mornings were privileged to be given a guided tour led by Ken.

His memory was phenomenal; he knew folks, families, events; he knew Chipley and he loved to share his recollections. His presence at the Center is missed, but his impact and influence upon its mission remain. For your own guided tour of conducted by Ken Askew, either go to the W Ken Askew Facebook page or ask at the Chipley Historical Center to see the video produced by native son Lee Davis.



Our next newsletter will be sent by email. If you still want to receive it by USPS please leave a voice message at 706-663-4044 or send an email to info@chipleyhistoriccenr.org

Letter from the Chairman

One thing that I continually hear from our volunteers at the Chipley Historical Center is how wonderful it was to grow up in Chipley/Pine Mountain. Although I didn't grow up in here, I did grow up in another small Georgia town. I was able to safely walk to the local swimming pool and ride my bike through the streets without worrying too much about safety. I especially appreciated that freedom in my pre-teen, not-yet-driving years. While going through photos at the Historical Center in preparation for our new exhibits, I have found lots of photos of children and young adult activities, mostly school related. Baseball, basketball, and tennis seem to have been very popular activities, and of course there are photos of some summer activities at pools and Callaway Gardens.

In addition to the photos, we have also recently received two pairs of childhood roller skates from sisters and long-time residents Ann Clancy and Sue Trott. These are not the fancy, modern roller blades that you see today, but the old-fashioned, use a key to tighten to fit your shoes type, and in fact, Ann shared that getting sturdy shoes to use with the skates was challenging. She and Sue spent many happy hours zipping around the outdoor skating rink just a few blocks from their house at the Chipley Woman's Club. We plan to put the skates on display when we reopen the Historical Center, hopefully this fall.

Our volunteers are working hard to make the September opening happen. Please contact the Historical Center if you'd like to volunteer or have something to donate. You can leave a voice message at 706-663-4044 or send an email to info@chipleyhistoriccenr.org.

Sincerely,
Lou Brackett
Chairman and Lover of Dusty Old Things



Calendar of Talks

- 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



Exhibitions

We are excited about working on our new exhibitions. The sections include:

- Prehistoric Archeology
- Old Hood and Chipley
- Agriculture
- Transportation
- Tourism
- Schools
- Community
- Homelife
- Religion
- Business and Industry
- Government
- and Changing Exhibitions

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& Harris county
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Where is this?

We need some help identifying where this picture was taken. If you know or even think you know please send your answer to:
info@chipleysthistoricalcenter.org



Secrets of the Grind

The Brook's Grist mill was established circa 1829, 7.5 miles north of Pine Mountain on the bank of Flat Shoal Creek, and the Troup Factory was built in 1847. Maxey Brooks purchased the property in 1828, one year after the land lottery from the original grantee. He recognized the need for a grist mill in the area due to the influx of farmsteads producing corn and grains. The building was finished by 1829 and opened to the public. From the start it was one of the best mills in the area. The mill ran two sets of mill stones, which were originally made of granite. At some point one set was replaced by the finest stone money could buy, the French Buhrstone. The buhrstone was quarried in La Ferte-sous-Fauarre France, in the late 1700's and early 1800's. When the quarry became depleted, remnant chunks of the stone were banded together to make a millstone. This simple act allowed archeologists and historians to date French milestones found in Georgia.

An industry grew up around hewing and shaping the valuable broken stones, cementing them together with plaster, and reinforcing the stone with an iron band. Several businesses were started to make these stones. Shipping the stones from France in the bottom of the sailing ships replaced the need for a ballast stone.

During an archaeological excavation of Troup Factory a single granite mill stone was found on the surface. It now stands on the corner of East Broome St. and Main in front of the Legacy museum. Continuing with the archeological dig they found limestone chips and plaster, indicating that a second set of stones remained buried which may be French Burh stones. The final excavations will be taking place this summer and the stones will be cleaned, analyzed, photographed, and prepared for display at the Chipley Historical Center.



Volunteers Needed

The Chipley History Center hopes to open our doors to the public in the fall. We need for volunteers. Our hours will consist of three hours with two shifts running 10-1 and 1-4 Monday through Saturday. We need two people per shift so if you would like to sign up with a friend that would be great.

Interested, please call Mary Jo Cox at 706-663-0500.

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Chipley Historical Center
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