Augusta Richmond County Historical Society, Inc.
2016

Executive Committee

President Dr. Jim Garvey
President-elect John Bell
Past President Trav Paine
Treasurer Nick Blume
Secretary Catherine Wahl
Advisor Dr. Robert R. Nesbit
Administrator Elaine Benton

Board of Directors

Robert Osborne Hamp Manning Thomas H. Robertson
John Barney Martha Robertson Andrew Goss
Robin Anderson Alvin Blount Danielle Huggins

Standing Committees

Historian Dr. Lee Ann Caldwell
Journal Editor Dr. Russell K. Brown
Scholarship Dr. Lee Ann Caldwell
Special Events Elaine Benton
Veterans Affairs Dr. Jim Garvey
Web Master Edward M. Gillespie

Veterans History Project Coordinators

World War II Fred Gehle
Korea and Vietnam Bill Tilt and Stan Schrader
Augusta Richmond County History

Editorial Committee
Dr. Russell K. Brown, Editor
Dr. Lee Ann Caldwell
Dr. Jim Garvey
Elaine Benton
C. Tom Sutherland

The journal is issued twice a year to all members. Cost of the journal to non-members is $6.00 plus postage. Copies are made available to all local middle and high school libraries. Bound copies or copies of back issues may be purchased from the Society office.

Augusta Richmond County History publishes papers dealing with local and area history. The Editors do not assume responsibility for errors of fact or opinion on the part of the contributors. No portion of this journal may be reproduced by any process or technique, without the consent of the editors and publishers.

ISSN 99355119

AUGUSTA RICHMOND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
c/o Reese Library, Augusta University
2500 Walton Way
Augusta, GA 30904-2200
(706) 737-1532
www.theARCHS.org

Members are invited to use the Society’s collections maintained in the Special Collections Room at Reese Library, Augusta University, telephone (706) 667-4904. Normal hours of operation are Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. It is best to call before coming to the room.

Annual Dues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>$35.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>$45.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-profit</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donor/Corporate</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefactor</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Augusta Richmond County History

The Official Journal of the
Augusta Richmond County Historical Society, Inc.

Volume 47, No. 2 Fall 2016

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Society Notes ......................................................................................................................... 4

Riding the Dinky, and Other Tales of School Days .......................................................... 5
Virginia Bowe Strickland

The Great Augusta Fire of 1916 ...................................................................................... 16
Erick Montgomery

List of ARCHS Life Members and Current Members ............................................ 28
In our last issue we informed you that the ARCHS office would be moving to co-locate with Special Collections in Reese Library. As many of you already know, that move was cancelled before our issue even reached your hands. As of last June, our office is now located on the third floor at Reese, right next to the elevator door. The telephone number and email address are unchanged. Elaine’s office hours are Wednesday and Thursday each week, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. except for days when the library is closed. We recommend calling before visiting.

At our Fall general membership meeting in September, Erich Frazier, “Augusta Historian” (that’s the name of his Facebook page), gave an enthusiastic and entertaining presentation on internet resources available for historical and genealogical research. Sifting through paper records and cranking a microfilm handle will probably never be completely passé but more and more material becomes available at the click of a mouse every day.

This past September we marked the 70th anniversary of the first organizational meeting of the then Richmond County Historical Society. As noted in an issue of our journal in 1996, the society’s first membership dinner meeting was held at the Bon Air Hotel in March 1947. There were 300 people present of whom 210 were society members.

We are indebted for assistance with photographs, as so often in the past, to Carol Waggoner-Angleton at Reese Library Special Collections and Joseph M. Lee III, and in this issue to Erick Montgomery at Historic Augusta and Jean Strickland for illustrations for their own articles.

*Our cover illustration shows Tubman School girls boarding a streetcar in front of the school, ca. 1923. (Joseph M. Lee III Collection).*
Jean Strickland is a native of Augusta and a long-term member of ARCHS. She holds a degree in mathematics, but she now devotes her time to local and family history. She has authored two books of family history and numerous magazine articles, and has organized and transcribed local church records.

“Hurry, Margaret, or you’ll miss the Dinky.”

Margaret Bush moved quickly to the hall-tree beside the door and, glancing in the mirror, ran a brush through her brown curls and put on her jacket. She went back to the table, finished her milk and grabbed her toast and fruit. After picking up her books from the hall-tree, she dashed out the door.

From her home at 118 Greene Street, next to the Widows’ Home, Margaret moved quickly into the “green,” or median, and headed for Third (Lincoln) Street. As she arrived she heard the clang of the trolley bell as it picked up passengers on Telfair Street and Third. She made it! She would not have to walk or run three more long blocks to Fifth Street and Broad, where the Tubman Special waited.

The Dinky was a short-line electric streetcar that began its journey on Third Street near May Park, Magnolia and Cedar Grove Cemeteries. Students boarded it at May Park, Watkins, Walker, Telfair, Greene, Ellis, and Broad Streets. Shoppers and business people rode the Dinky too. The fare was a nickel, conveniently kept by school girls in the pocket of their middy blouses, which were popular then.
Margaret was often teased by the driver, Mr. Chavel, about finishing her breakfast on the Dinky. Did she bring him some too?

Margaret was glad to see her friends who lived “downtown”, below Fifth (Center) Street. Elizabeth Kreps was usually on the Dinky. Others were Emily Brooks, Lillian Holman, and Christine Greene. Grace and Frances Fuller might board it at Ellis Street, along with Bertha Smith. Bernice O’Neill, from the 100 block of Broad Street, would join them at Broad, along with girls who lived in the Broadway Apartments. More downtown friends were Martha Murphy, Catherine Curry, and Dollie Lamback. Dollie occasionally drove a Model T Ford.

As the Dinky moved into the green at Third and Broad, it turned west and rattled its way up Broad to Fifth Street. At Fifth and Broad the passengers left the Dinky and boarded the Tubman Special. After a wait for a few more students, the trolley bell rang and the Special headed up Broad Street, crossed the canal at 13th Street, then turned onto Walton Way for its ride to Tubman High School for Girls, 1740 Walton Way. The school had been built in 1917, after the Great Fire of 1916 burned the old Tubman High School on Reynolds Street beside the river. Classes had met at First Presbyterian Church in the interim. Margaret’s older sister Virginia had been in the class of 1918, the first to graduate from the new school.

As the streetcar neared the school, the students could see ahead of them the other Tubman Special working its way down the Hill (the local name for the Hill).
Summerville area), with stops for passengers. It began somewhere in the Hill area, and Margaret’s best friend Kate Weigle and others who lived on Central Avenue, McDowell Street, etc. rode it to school. It had been disappointing to Margaret that the Weigles had moved to the Hill after the Great Fire in 1916, for the girls had been next door neighbors and classmates a few years earlier on the 400 block of Greene Street. But now they were back in school together, and happy to be there.

The two streetcars, on the same track, met nose to nose in front of Tubman. The lively students left the cars and headed through the large brick gates to the school. Any other passengers could transfer from one trolley to the other, to continue their rides. Then each motorman went to the other end of his trolley, changed the position of the overhead contact with the electricity, and each trolley went back where it came from, to resume its usual daily schedule of moving people to and from the Hill, going around the “Belt” up Walton Way, around Monte Sano and Central Avenues, then back to town.

This would have been about 1922, when the Richmond Academy, the historic military high school for boys, was still downtown on the 500 block of Telfair Street, so boys may have been passengers going in the other direction. That old building, erected in the early 1800s, is now used by The Clubhouse, a technology community that has occupied the premises since 2014.

The school day ended when the Tubman bell rang at 2:15. Girls dashed to get a seat on the waiting streetcars, trying to save the adjoining one for a friend by putting a book in it. Then the whole system was reversed. Margaret was delivered to Fifth and Broad Streets by the Tubman Special, then nearer to her home by the Dinky. Kate Weigle went up the Bon Air hill on the streetcar, to a stop near her home on the Hill.
If Margaret had time in the morning, she sometimes walked directly to Broad Street, hoping to be in the “green” on the way to the Dinky when the Fair sisters from Beech Island, S.C., came along. Laura Fair was her friend and classmate. The others were Elizabeth, Catherine, and Jane Eve. The girls who were old enough for Tubman drove a car – no licenses needed in those days – and they would often give Margaret a ride, along with Mary Lamar, another student from Beech Island. Margaret kept her eyes out for them, and waved if she saw them, for riding to school in a car with friends was a special treat. Her family had no car. Her older sister Virginia walked to her teaching job at Houghton School, the building of which is now used by the Heritage Academy, a private elementary school. Margaret’s brothers Fred and Bob walked to Richmond Academy on Telfair Street. Her father, a cotton merchant, walked or rode the streetcar to his office on the corner of Reynolds Street and Eighth, across from the Cotton Exchange (the building now occupied by Georgia Bank and Trust).

In that era the regular Tubman course was five years. There was a “sub-Freshman” class followed by four more years of high school. (A terrible name, not designed to promote self-confidence in these new arrivals to the school!) At some time later the sub-Freshmen were discontinued. They did not re-appear until the class of 1953 (my own class), but then it was called “Eighth Grade.”

Margaret graduated from Tubman in the “Class of 1926 – Fifth Year.” So did Laura Fair. Students could take an optional extra year of classes, which allowed them to enter college as a sophomore. After that Margaret chose to remain at home and
attend the Augusta Training School for Teachers, which was housed in the old John Milledge Elementary School. The school had excellent teachers, for they were training the teachers of the future. The Training School students did their practice-teaching alongside the regular teachers.

When the two-year Junior College of Augusta began operating in the Richmond Academy building on Russell Street, about 1926, the Training School students were taken there from John Milledge every day on a school bus, and they received their basic courses like math, English, and history along with the college students. After graduating from her teaching course Margaret was hired by Houghton School. Her sister Virginia had taught third grade at Houghton for four years; she married William Fairbanks Bowe, Jr., in 1925 and was barred from teaching thereafter, the rule at that time. The rule was changed by 1942, when Margaret became a wife.

My Aunt Margaret married and had two sons, Joe and Walton Campbell. Her husband, Big Joe, ran Campbell’s Feed and Seed Store on Broad Street. I liked to go and play with the baby chicks he sold, and he sometimes had puppies to sell, too. Joe died in an automobile wreck while delivering feed to a customer, leaving Margaret a widow at age 44. She had been taking night courses, and with just one summer at Georgia State College for Women in Milledgeville, now called Georgia College and

Double tracks in residential areas, such as this one on lower Broad Street. *Streetcars in Augusta*
State University, she completed a four-year degree. She taught school in Augusta for 38 years and in Belvedere, South Carolina, for two years, mostly teaching lower elementary grades. Her favorite was third. If I ever took her to a large gathering of local people, someone she had taught nearly always came to speak to her.

Margaret lived to be 97, and her memory was excellent. She would sometimes reminisce about these old times and the fun she had with her friends. One of her classmates was Jeannie Selden, later Mrs. Albert Lehman, and those two girls were often reprimanded for talking in class. Two of her teachers at Tubman were Miss Emma Wilkinson for English, and Miss Marcia Clarke for sewing. Miss Marcia told Margaret that if she had sewed in class as much as she had talked she would have made an “A.” Margaret had a special rapport with an English teacher, Miss Bessie Mary Dudley, later Mrs. George Baird, who inspired her to work on creative writing, which Margaret did well.

When I arrived at Tubman about 25 years later, Miss Emma was still teaching conjugations and declensions, and Miss Marcia was still teaching girls to darn socks, to put on a neat patch, and to make a garment on a treadle sewing machine. We may have even had the same sewing textbooks, for they were very old, with artistic illustrations.

Margaret at a young age had been in the class of Miss Durban. She went home and told her mother that her new teacher was a lady, but her name was “Mis-ter Bann”. By the time I was in the class of Mrs. Cecile Durban Fielder in grades five, six, seven at William Robinson school, she was a widow but still a good strong teacher of English. Some of us found that we never had any lessons later on in grammar and word usage, even in college, that we had not already learned from Mrs. Fielder. There was only one section of each grade at William Robinson at that time, so she could carry out a “three-year-plan” to teach us English grammar.
Memorization is not in vogue now, but we memorized, and can still define, the parts of speech, comparison, when to use the subjunctive mood (it expresses “doubt, wish, condition, or supposition”), and other things related to grammar. We memorized at least six long poems per year (times three years) that we learned in her class: “Paul Revere’s Ride,” “The One-Horse Shay,” “Lady Clare,” “The Snowstorm” (our introduction to iambic pentameter), “The Day is Done,” “To a Waterfowl,” “Work,” and others. I still can recite most of them. We stood around the room in front of the blackboards, and said the poems sequentially, hoping that our turn would come at a verse that we knew well. If you missed you went to the end of the line, like in a spelling bee. Aunt Margaret liked poetry, but I never thought to ask her if Miss Durban had taught it to her in this way. We have come to appreciate the messages of these poems much more as adults than we did as children.

And what has become of the streetcars? Beginning in 1866 there had originally been horse-drawn trolleys on Walton Way. A second team of horses was added at the foot of the hill to pull the trolley up the hill to Summerville. On the way back down, the more tired horses were taken off to rest, while the fresher ones went back to town with the passengers. It was said that the “dinner car” was always filled with people who lived in Summerville going home for a midday meal. Sometimes lawyers who were opposing each other in court would pause their arguments and relax during the rides together to and from town. When court resumed they were at it fiercely again, each trying to win the case.

From oral history I have heard that the horse-drawn streetcars to the Hill turned around by going into a circular driveway that connected three houses on Walton Way. The entrance and exit to the drive were marked by stone pillars on the 2400 block, across from the main entrance to the U.S. Arsenal, now the site of Augusta University. The pillars are still there, but now each house has its own driveway.

By 1888 the horse cars transported nearly 800,000 passengers. In 1890 the Augusta and Summerville Railroad company...
was using 112 horses and mules on its routes. In 1889 a new Augusta Railway Company, whose president was Daniel B. Dyer, bought 10 miles of the track and began an electric railway. This signaled the end of the horse-drawn cars.

Colonel Dyer, who built the Dyer Building at Eighth and Broad (where the Great Fire of 1916 began), developed properties near Monte Sano Avenue, which the trolley was extended to include. My daughter and her husband, Mary and Brian Leonard, formerly lived in a Glenn Avenue house built about 1916, and described as “one square off the car line.” The various trolley lines continued to run until at least 1935. After that their memory lingered as late as the early 1950s when I was learning to drive, for motorists had to be careful not to get their automobile tires stuck in the tracks when driving down the Bon Air Hill on Walton Way. Those tracks were finally removed, but they remained even longer on Monte Sano Avenue and in the median on Central Avenue, until about the 1960s. Other lines had gone up Broad Street to the Casino at Lake View, now called Lake Olmstead, where picnics were held, and to homes in south Augusta. On hot summer evenings people could ride around a streetcar line to cool off, certainly worth the nickel fare. Sometimes the regular cars were replaced by cars with open sides, which were even cooler. The streetcar routes have been replaced by the buses which now carry passengers.

The only reminder today of the streetcar lines is the space that was provided for wide turns of the track at Walton Way and Monte Sano Avenue, Monte Sano and Central Avenue, Central where it meets Druid Park, and Druid Park at Laney-Walker Boulevard (formerly Gwinnett Street). See the Bibliography for a web site that shows the entire map of routes.

Margaret Campbell was fun to be with. Though she had survived tragedy in her life she was optimistic, and could move on. At 95 she still bought season tickets to the Augusta Opera, and went, providing an extra ticket for a friend or relative who could drive, for she had stopped driving herself at 86. She had friends of all ages, and in her old age she never lacked for a ride to an event. One former pupil wrote in a note of condolence “She was boisterous, witty, and always interesting.” Her voice was often loud, due to a serious illness in her late twenties that left her deaf in one ear. But she could find humor in everything, even in jokes on herself. When she was a child, she once won an advertising contest for Mounds candy bars:
A monkey and a Mounds in a coconut tree.
Said the Mounds to the monkey, “There’s coconut in me.”
The monkey ate the Mounds, and then said he,
“There’s coconut in you and me and the tree.”

Margaret truly liked children and she believed that any child can learn. She enjoyed watching them learn and enjoyed watching them play. She said that any third grader that could hit a ball could make a home run, for no third grader can catch a ball.

I copied this poem years ago from a sign in Charleston:

If I should live to a ripe old age may I preserve some bit
    Of originality, charm, or wit,
That I may not be discarded when I’m weary, worn, and weak,
    But sought after and cherished, like a fine antique.

Margaret Bush Campbell was a fine antique.

---

The Fair Sisters and Others
Information from files of the Beech Island Historical Society, thanks to Jackie Bartley, and from obituaries on the internet. All married, and all seemed to live long useful lives.


Known married names of other students:
   Elizabeth Kreps m. Dr. William Boyd
   Christine Greene m. Fred Gnann
   Bernice O’Neill m. Dr. Frank Tillery
   Martha Murphy m. Clarence Cliatt
   Kate Weigle m. Miller Jones
   Margaret Thomas Bush m. Joseph Phillip Campbell, Jr.
Appendix

Tubman High School Class of 1918
(From Maids and A Man, the school annual. Married names, if known, are in parentheses, from the Fiftieth Anniversary observance, Augusta Chronicle, June 2, 1968. The title of the annual refers to Principal T. Harry Garrett being the “only” man at the all-girls school.)

Front row, L to R: May Turner; Jean Burum (Mrs. Henri McGowan); Minnie Lee Clarke (Mrs. Charles Cordle); Anita Tessier; Virginia Speer; Rebecca Sawilowsky (Mrs. Joe Frankel, Griffin GA.); Louisa Mallard; Louisa Mustin; Ruth Mertins (Mrs. Linden Fisher, Bethlehem, Pa.); Eleanor Hook (Mrs. Rivers Vaughn, Beaufort, SC); Julia Youngblood (Mrs. Reggie Robinson, Calif.); Wilma Radford (Mrs. James Bishop); Marie Strauss (Mrs. Hillary Mangum); Walton Brewer (Mrs. Ralph Nance); Ruth Ray (Mrs. Ernest Lowe, Devereux, Ga.); Fannie Sewell (Mrs. Lester Elliott); Myrle Ingram (Mrs. Silke, Escondido, Calif.); Mary Chambers (Mrs. William Cox); Miriam Gerald (Mrs. Ceil Kirven, Louisville, Ky.); Harriet White (Mrs. Emile Barinowski); Bertha Young; Addie Baston; Violet Knapp (Mrs. Cason Smith); Minnie Koffsky (Mrs. Max Sokol, New York); Louise Welch (Mrs. Ernest Pund); Jesse Holman (Mrs. S. Herbert Elliott); Maydelle Wiseman; Anita Holman (Mrs. Roy Spencer, Calif.); Marion Watkins.

Back row: Catherine Sasser; Helen Gibbs; Unidentified student; Osa Belding (Mrs. Edwin Mertins); Leila Hogan; Annie McKinney Rowland (Okla.); Emma Plunkett (Ph.D., Oklahoma); Virginia Burum (Mrs. Joseph B. Cumming); Gena Calloway (Mrs. Kenneth Merry); T. Harry Garrett, principal from 1903 to 1945; Edna Weathers; Margaret Nixon (Mrs. John Mobley, Thomasville, Ga.); Ethel Addison (the late Mrs. Robert Martin); Mary Jones of Beech Island SC; Frances McDaniel (Mrs. Russ Norvell, Calif.); Clara Jackson; Virginia Bush (Mrs. William F. Rowe); Myrtrie Johnson (possibly a Mrs. Cliatt); Fannie Wright Hill (Mrs. E. T. Henderson, Bath SC); Mary Byars; Elizabeth Lynch (Mrs. Frank Cole, Cincinnati, OH); not pictured, Elizabeth Allen (the late Mrs. Spencer Hart).
BIBLIOGRAPHY


*Augusta Chronicle and Herald*, Sunday, June 2, 1968, photo of Tubman Class of 1918, the first to graduate from the new building, with their names.


The Clubhou.se (online at http://theclubhou.se).


Streetcars in Augusta (online at railga.com/oddend/streetrail/augustastr.html):
- Maps: 1904 map
  - Streetcar routes on today’s map
  - Aiken-Augusta line

Walton Way 1905, Village of Summerville, Ga., photo and comments (online at www.shorpy.com/node/12627).
The Great Augusta Fire of 1916

Erick Montgomery

Erick Montgomery is the Executive Director of Historic Augusta, Inc., and has been a member of ARCHS for many years. This article is a written version of a presentation he gave last spring for our society and other organizations. It is his second contribution to our journal.

The year 2016 marks the centennial anniversary of one of the greatest disasters ever to occur in Augusta, the great conflagration of March 22, 1916. One hundred years later, although likely no one living has a true memory of the event, many people still recall hearing of its devastation from relatives or longtime Augustans. The unfolding story of that fire is presented here with some discussion of its aftermath.

An Ordinary Day

The front page of the Augusta Chronicle on the morning of the fire included headlines mostly about the Great War in Europe, which we now call the First World War. The United States would not enter that war until the next year. A local boy, Woodrow Wilson, known as “Tommy” to Augustans, was in the White House. He grew up at 419 Seventh Street in the 1860s during the Civil War and early years of Reconstruction while his father pastored First Presbyterian Church. Another local boy, Joseph Rucker Lamar, who was Wilson’s childhood friend and next-door-neighbor at 415 Seventh Street, had just died in January of 1916 as a sitting Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Downtown Augusta thrived as the commercial center of the region and the city’s central business district, just as it does today. It boasted impressive buildings, including the new sixteen-story Empire Building, which we now know as the Lamar Building, at 753 Broad Street. The Chronicle Building, another new tower office building, which afterwards was named the Marion Building, was located at 739 Broad Street. Electric trolleys provided public transportation. Automobiles were becoming commonplace. Augusta was at its pinnacle as a destination for wealthy Northern tourists who spent all or part of their winter months in fine hotels on The Hill, and frequented downtown establishments. The Hampton Terrace Hotel in North Augusta was also still there, but burned later that year.
The weather forecast on March 22 was not particularly alarming. Rain was predicted for northwest Georgia. Temperatures would likely be in the 70s. There was no mention of expected winds, but it was March, when wind was not uncommon.\(^5\)

**The Fire Starts**

The fire actually started in the Dyer Building at the northwest corner of Broad and Eighth Streets.\(^6\) This is now the location of the SunTrust Bank building at 801 Broad Street. Among the tenants was M. E. Kelly’s dry goods store with an alteration shop in the basement along with several other businesses. Kelly’s sold mostly ladies’ apparel and accessories, but also children’s clothing and some household items. It prided itself on having the newest items at the lowest prices.\(^7\)

The Dyer Building was constructed in 1891-92, and was valued at $60,000. It measured 77 feet along Broad Street, and 163 feet along Eighth, covering basically the same footprint as the SunTrust Building does today. It had five stories with a basement, and was brick veneered on wooden-joisted framing. It had many windows and doors on each floor, both interior and exterior. There were two light shafts inside the building measuring 20 feet by 30 feet each, designed to allow natural light and ventilation into interior spaces. The first floor was occupied by mercantile businesses, with offices above on the second through fifth floors. The basement housed a pressing and cleaning shop where alterations were also made, as well as a restaurant, and a barbershop.\(^8\)

The fire apparently started sometime shortly after 6 P.M. when the store closed. It is now widely believed the fire started in the alterations shop in the basement when the personnel left for the day, inadvertently leaving on an electric iron. But there is no mention of it in the *Chronicle* until years later.\(^9\) Insurance reports from 1916 do not even speculate what started the fire.\(^10\) An article that appeared in the *Chronicle* on 22 October

The fire started in the Dyer Building at the northwest corner of Broad and 8th Streets, which was about 25 years old at the time, but considered by insurance adjusters as a fire trap due to its design. *Historic Augusta, Inc.*
1928 said, “the cause of the fire was hard to determine, but eventually it was thought to be some defective wiring in one of the upper stories.”11

If an electric iron was the actual culprit, such appliances were not new, having been invented in the 1880s.12 The only advertisements found in the Augusta Chronicle in the 1915-1916 period were for Hot Point irons in both 3 and 6 pound varieties. At that time, they were being sold by the Augusta-Aiken Railway and Electric Corporation, a predecessor of the Georgia Power Company.13

The fire alarm was sounded at 6:20 P.M. and the Augusta Fire Department was on the scene within 3-4 minutes.14 The fire headquarters at that time was four blocks away at 1263 Broad in what we now call the Marbury Center. Engine Company Number One was at 452 Ellis Street near Fifth, three and one-half blocks away, now the offices of Cranston Engineering.15

Before long, the Dyer Building was completely engulfed in flames, and the embers shooting up through the light shafts began to spread. High winds were blowing, and some have claimed that the wind was gusting at up to 50 miles an hour at times.16

The next building to catch fire was the Union Savings Bank across Eighth Street from the Dyer Building. From there, one building after another caught fire, and it progressed slowly.17 People began to worry and started taking precautions by removing valuable papers from their offices for safe keeping, even those who occupied the so-called “fire proof” structures, which turned out to be a wise move.18
Assistance was requested from other fire departments, and the following cities responded with firemen, pumps and firehose, all coming for miles through the night over bad roads or by rail:

- Waynesboro (14 volunteers, 2000 feet of hose)
- Macon (12 men, 1 motor pump, 22,000 feet of hose)
- Savannah (32 men, 2 American LeFrance motor pumps)
- Atlanta (14 men, 2 steam fire engines, 2000 feet of hose)
- Charleston (8 men, 1 steam fire engine, 2000 feet of hose)
- Columbia (men, 1 Robinson Motor Pump, 2000 feet of hose)
- Greenville (14 men, 1 engine, 33,000 feet of hose).

Embers floated past the worst burning blocks, and started fires on houses further to the east. Wooden shingles contributed greatly to the spread of the fire into the residential area we now call Olde Town. Before long, it seems the entire northeastern corner of the town was an inferno: Flames leaping, smoke billowing, heat radiating.

**Spreading to the North and East**

Some photos taken during the fire are difficult to identify by location. Whole blocks were consumed. It was almost as if the fire were progressing in slow motion. The fire was sometimes random and unpredictable in its course. Some photos show how a house in the middle of two others apparently burned first, and then spread to the houses on either side. Many trees and most landscaping was also terribly damaged or killed by the flames.

The tragic thing about all the other cities that sent help was that after their arrival, it was found that the other cities’ hoses would not work on Augusta hydrants. Couplings had not been standardized by that time. Stand-alone fire pumps were useless if they could not be attached to the local hydrants. A separate fire broke out at Twelfth and Dugas Streets,
which was handled by the Savannah and Macon departments with their own equipment.22

The fire lasted about ten and one-half hours finally ending in the 200 block of Broad Street just before dawn.23 Daylight revealed gutted and crumbling buildings beginning where the fire started in the Dyer Building, and the adjacent Warren Block north along Eighth Street. The prevailing southwestern wind carried the flames in a northeasterly direction. The Union Savings Bank, across the street at 771 Broad Street, became one of the most photographed after the fire was over. Both the Empire Building at 753 Broad Street, and the Chronicle Office building, at 739 Broad Street, though considered fire resistant, were gutted. They were rebuilt known respectively as the Lamar and Marion Buildings.24

Most houses were wooden, some likely dating back to the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. All had brick chimneys, and many had wooden shake roofs.25 One observer described Olde Town as seeming like a large cemetery after the fire, with the chimneys representing tombstones.26 There were piles of corrugated tin, presumably formerly roofing. Scorched trees and shrubs were everywhere, along with blocks of rubble throughout the burned district.27

Businesses began immediately to relocate and set up shop elsewhere. The Postal Telegraph Office placed a large sign at its former location
where Casella’s Eye Center is now located at 767 Broad Street. They had moved to the Bijou Theater, across the street in the Johnson Building, southeast corner of Broad and Eighth Streets.  

*The Morning After*

Cleanup began immediately, and an army of insurance adjusters descended upon the city. Remaining unsafe walls were dynamited so that the debris could begin to be cleared away. Cotton had been one of the main culprits of the fire. It was common practice to stack the highly flammable bales in the streets, totally unprotected and uncovered. Bits of cotton fiber caught fire and began to float, landing on buildings and igniting shingle roofs and other wooden elements exposed to the embers. Stacked cotton bales were particularly common along Reynolds Street between Saint Paul’s Church on the east, all the way to Ninth Street on the west. Cotton warehouses filled those blocks between Reynolds Street and the new levee that had only recently been constructed on top of Bay Street next to the river.

Survivors put their possessions in the middle of Broad and Greene Streets in the grassy medians. Photos after the fire show dressers, chifforobes, chairs and bedding. In some cases, these salvaged personal possessions also caught fire. Photos also show peoples’ belongings piled up on both sides of the levee in an attempt to salvage something.

Two schools were lost in the fire. Tubman High School for girls formerly stood on the north side of the 700 block of Reynolds Street. It was surrounded by stacked cotton bales and cotton warehouses. The Board of Education relocated and rebuilt the school at 1740 Walton Way where Tubman still stands today. The new school was completed in 1917. Houghton School was located in the 300 block of Greene Street in the heart of Olde Town, and was reduced to ashes. It was rebuilt on the same site in 1917 in the Spanish Colonial style, and remains there today as the Heritage Academy at 333 Greene Street.

Often thought to be the most devastating loss for sentimental reasons was the destruction of old Saint Paul’s Church at 605 Reynolds Street, which had been built in 1820 on the site of Augusta’s first church and cemetery. Its resurrection after the fire is perhaps the most-well documented.
The fire consumed all or parts of about 36 blocks in the northeast quadrant of the old city. An insurance map prepared after the fire illustrates that not every block was completely consumed.\(^37\) For instance, the north-side 600 block of Broad was relatively unscathed, thanks to efforts of the fire company from Atlanta. Yet the south side of Reynolds Street, behind it in the same rectangular block, was completely devoured. The 500 block of Reynolds where the old depot still stands was completely skipped, including a lone residential structure in the northwest corner of the train yard. For the most part, once the fire got to Fourth Street everything north of Greene Street burned. It crossed Greene Street to the south side only in part of the 200 block. But, as the map shows, the whole town did not burn as is sometimes thought.

Assessing the Losses

There were 600 families and 3,000 people who were left homeless by the fire. The courthouse was opened for fire refugees on the first night.\(^38\) Some people lived in tents for a while. Others moved in with friends and relatives in other parts of town.\(^39\)

A scathing report was prepared by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) in Boston. It stated the estimated loss in value as follows:\(^40\)

- Property value $4,250,000
- Insurance coverage $3,500,000
- 20,000 bales of cotton valued at $1,200,000
- 36 blocks in whole or in part and 160 acres
- 541 dwellings lost
- 141 business buildings destroyed
- 2 fire-resistive buildings gutted (Chronicle and Empire Buildings, now Marion and Lamar)
• 1,000 people put out of work
• Notable buildings lost included Saint Paul’s Church, the Y.W.C.A. building, Tubman and Houghton Schools, the Commercial Club, the Barrett, Gould and Fargo homes, the Dyer Building, the Warren Block, and many others.

The causes for the spread of the conflagration given in the NFPA report included cotton storage in the streets; wooden roof shingles; limited water supply; low water pressure; hose couplings that did not fit; a limited fire district of fire resistant building codes; unprotected openings at windows and doors; inadequate building codes that did not discourage the spread of fire; and shoddy frame additions to the backs of buildings.\(^{41}\)

One result of the fire was an increase in the building trades. For example, in 1915 the Augusta city directory listed only six architectural firms practicing in Augusta.\(^{42}\) By 1917 there were eleven.\(^{43}\) There were also increased listings for contractors, electricians, plumbers, engineers and most other businesses tied to construction.

Another change after the fire was installation of water meters. Previously “water rent” was charged to each customer, based on the type of fixtures installed, rather than the number of gallons used. Fire Chief Reynolds had been advocating changing to a metered consumption system for some time, because without accountability residents were loath to repair leaks, since their charges would not change. Widespread leaks contributed to low water pressure, which had a negative effect on fighting the fire.\(^{44}\)

The 1904 Sanborn Fire Insurance maps cover most of the area that was affected by the fire from the Savannah River to Greene

Soon after the Augusta fire was over, a scathing report was prepared by the National Fire Protection Association, which included this map showing the actual extent of the damage done. Historic Augusta, Inc.
Street.\textsuperscript{45} Yellow and pink shapes on the maps represent frame and brick buildings, respectively, that existed at the time. There was little substantive difference in Augusta from 1904 and 1916. The same area in 1917 shows that very little had yet been rebuilt.\textsuperscript{46} By the early 1920s, most of these blocks had been refilled with new businesses and houses.\textsuperscript{47} But in many cases, former residents decided to relocate to The Hill (or Summerville), as well as to the Woodlawn, West End and Harrisburg neighborhoods on the west side of town. Some also moved to North Augusta. Many larger lots in Olde Town were carved up into two or three lots when the new houses were built.

\textit{Conclusion}

Downtown and Olde Town soon began to recover. Much property was lost in the Great Fire of 1916, but mercifully there was no loss of life, although five firemen and one civilian were injured and treated at University Hospital.\textsuperscript{48}

Augusta is fortunate in some ways that the fire occurred when it did. Architectural design was in a very elegant period, and the buildings that replaced the ones destroyed in the fire reflect that in many cases. Beaux-Arts Classicism, Sullivanesque and Classical Revival were all prevalent styles in the heart of downtown Augusta when it began to rise from the ashes. And these buildings remain some of our most admired, today giving downtown Augusta its sophisticated charm. Lessons were learned about fire safety and building codes as well, and today these structures are still among our most revered, beautiful and substantial.

There were many lessons learned by the city about fire safety, building codes, and changes required for the water system. We fervently hope that such a conflagration will never occur in our community again, but that the disaster will be remembered along with the valuable lessons that were learned.
Acknowledgements

Special thanks are extended to the following for their courtesies in providing information or assistance in compiling this article:

- Historic Augusta, Inc.
- Augusta University, Reese Library, Special Collections, Carol Waggoner-Angleton
- Augusta Museum of History, Nancy Glaser
- *Augusta Chronicle* Archives
- Georgia Society, Colonial Dames of America
- Saint Paul’s Church, Rev. George Muir
- Bill Kirby, *Augusta Chronicle*
- Catherine Robertson
- Mary Battey Moses

Notes

2. For information about Wilson and his childhood home in Augusta, see www.wilsonboyhoodhome.org.
3. *Ibid*.
10. NFPA, *Augusta, Georgia Conflagration*, p. 3.
12. For a brief history of electric irons, see http://www.oldandinteresting.com/vintage-electric-irons.aspx.


21. One source for images is a photo essay published by F. Edgar Davis, Photographer and Publisher, Savannah, Georgia, entitled “Souvenir Views of Augusta’s Big Fire, March 22, 1916.” Another useful collection of photos is the Pendleton Collection, Special Collections, Reese Library, Augusta University.


27. Pendleton Collection, Special Collections, Reese Library.

28. Pendleton Collection, Special Collections, Reese Library.

29. A photo of most of the adjusters was made, a copy of which is held by Dawson, Taylor Insurance Company, a successor of the Phinizy Insurance Company that was in existence in 1916.


31. Pendleton Collection, Special Collections, Reese Library.


33. National Register of Historic Places Nomination, Tubman School; files of Historic Augusta, Inc.


35. 333 Greene Street, Houghton School; Vertical files, Historic Augusta, Inc.


38. *Ibid.*, p. 13. There are conflicting numbers given in different reports, but the report cited here by the National Fire Protection Association is the most reliable, having made a full assessment that was published several weeks later.


46. Sanborn Map Company, Augusta, Georgia, 1917, pp. 16, 27, 28, 31, 32, 36; http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/sanborn/CityCounty/Augusta1917/

47. Sanborn Map Company, Augusta, Georgia, 1923, pp. 8, 9, 10, 19, 20, 21, 33, 34, 35, 36, 39, 40.

Past and Present Life Members
Augusta Richmond County Historical Society

We print herewith the names of people who are indicated in our files as life members of ARCHS. Readers are requested to send additions, corrections or changes to Elaine Benton, our administrator, at 706-737-1532 or archs1946@gmail.com.

Mr. and Mrs. John P. Adams  Mrs. Julian Jacobs
Mrs. William N. Agostas  Mr. C. Dexter Jordan, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Alexander B. Barrett  Mrs. Frederick Kennedy
Ms. Martha Baxter  Mr. Wyck Knox, Jr
Mr. and Mrs. Russell A. Blanchard  Mr. and Mrs. Peter S. Knox III
Mr. Thomas M. Blanchard  Mr. Bill Lesshaft
Mr. Braye C. Boardman  Mrs. Eugene M. Long
Mr. and Mrs. Clayton P. Boardman, Jr.  Mrs. Pierce Marks, Jr.
Mrs. William P. Bowe  Mrs. Wade V. Mallard
Mr. and Mrs. William G. Bush  Mr. Wilson P. Mason
Mr. Claud R. Caldwell  Mrs. Grover C. Maxwell
Mr. George R. Carter, Sr.  Miss Ruth G. McAuliffe
Dr. A. Bleakley Chandler  Mrs. Myrtis McKenzie
Mr. Henry H. Claussen  Mr. Hiram Merserau
Mr. and Mrs. David Hugh Connelly  Mr. and Mrs. William S. Morris III
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph B. Cumming  Dr. and Mrs. Robert Nesbit
Mrs. Martha Curtis  Mrs. Scott Nixon
Mrs. Virginia de Treville  Mr. H. M. Osteen, Jr.
Mr. Frank S. Dennis  Dr. and Mrs. R. Glen Owen
Dr. J. Gray Dinwiddie  Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Pamplin
Mrs. Frank M. Doar  Mr. and Mrs. Herman Pfadenhauer
Mr. Edwin L. Douglass, Jr.  Dr. John Phinizy
Dr. Philip Dow  Mrs. Dorothy Phinizy
Mr. Tom Dozier  Mr. B. W. Rainwater
Mr. James H. Drew  Mr. Julian Roberts
Mrs. J. Lee Etheredge, Jr.  Mr. A. Ray Rowland
Mrs. Fredericka M. Flynt  Mr. George M. Sancken, Jr.
Mrs. Marguerite Fogleman  Mr. F. X. Sheehan
Dr. and Mrs. Murray Freedman  Mr. John Augustus Sheehan
Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Fuqua  Mr. George R. Sibley, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Albert von Kamp Gary  Mr. Bernard Silverstein
Mr. William T. Gary  Mr. Paul S. Simon
Dr. and Mrs. Greg Gay  Mr. R. Lee Smith, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Hagler III  Major General and Mrs. Perry Smith
Mrs. J. C. Hagler, Jr.  Major General John D. Stevenson
Dr. Dorothy A. Hahn  Mrs. Martha Tanner
Mr. Jim Hamilton  Mr. Robert Timmerman
Colonel Raymond D. Hill  Mr. and Mrs. Maxwell Vallotton
Mr. Levi Hill III  Mr. and Mrs. J. Carlton Vaughn
Mrs. Raymond D. Hill  Mr. J. W. Weltch
Mrs. Eleanor N. Hoernle  Mrs. T. E. Wilson, Jr.
Mr. Eugene M. Howerdd, Jr.
Current Members
of the
Augusta Richmond County Historical Society,
June 2016

Below are the names of people and organizations that are current paid-up members of ARCHS. Readers can make corrections or changes by contacting Elaine Benton, our administrator, at 706-737-1532 or archs1946@gmail.com.

BENEFACTORS

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel H. Harkness  
Mr. Robert Osborne, Jr.

DONORS

Mr. Albert Cheatham  
Mr. and Mrs. Lawton Jordan
Dr. and Mrs. Wallace Edwards  
Dr. and Mrs. Craig Kerins
Dr. and Mrs. Louie H. Griffin, Jr.  
The Pollock Company
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hudson

NON-PROFITS

Augusta Museum of History  
Burke County Genealogical Society
Historic Augusta, Inc.

SUPPORTING MEMBERS

Mr. and Mrs. W. Franklin Abbott, III  
Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Herman III
Mr. Jim Adkins  
Mr. and Mrs. John G. Hudson
Judge and Mrs. H. Scott Allen  
Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Humphries
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Allen  
Drs. Thomas & Barbara Kiernan
Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Allen  
Mr. James Lester, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. N. Dudley Baird  
Mr. and Mrs. Bowdre P. Mays
Ms. Patricia Barrett  
Dr. and Mrs. Russell R. Moores
Mr. John C. Bell, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. W. Charles Moye
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Blanchard, Jr.  
Mrs. Neita Mulherin
Mrs. Hester S. Bliven  
Judge & Mrs. J. Carlisle Overstreet
Mr. Willis M. Boshears  
Judge Albert Pickett
Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Burch, Jr.  
Dr. and Mrs. J. Douglas Quarles, Jr.
Dr. Lee Ann Caldwell and Mr. Richard Swann  
Mr. and Mrs. Mel Rhodes
Dr. and Mrs. William L. Clark  
Dr. Geraldine Rinker
Dr. Paul E. Cundey  
Mr. and Mrs. J. Haley Roberts, Jr.
Mrs. Frances Cutting  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Robertson
Dr. and Mrs. M. Nesbit Dasher, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. George A. Sancken III
Mr. and Mrs. Lyle M. Glascock  
Dr. and Mrs. Edouard J. Servy
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Goodwin  
Mr. Leroy H. Simkins
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Gray  
Mrs. Mary L. Speir
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey J. Heck  
Mr. and Mrs. Allen Strickland
FAMILY MEMBERS

Mr. and Mrs. Lyn Allgood
Mr. and Mrs. Brad Bennett
Mr. and Mrs. Hugh T. Bennett III
Mr. and Mrs. John B. Black
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick G. Blanchard
Dr. and Mrs. David D. Bogorad
Mr. and Mrs. Robin Bohannon
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bracy
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel R. Breda
Mr. and Mrs. Remer Y. Brinson III
Dr. and Mrs. Robert S. Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Charles I. Bryans III
Mr. and Mrs. Mark S. Burgreen
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Capers
Dr. and Mrs. A. Bleakely Chandler, Sr.
Dr. and Mrs. William H. Chew, Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. Terrence Cook
Mr. and Mrs. Forster Dickson
Dr. and Mrs. T. R. Dirkson
Mr. and Mrs. Paul H. Dunbar III
Mr. and Mrs. Nick W. Evans
Mr. and Mrs. Trey Few
Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Flanagin, Jr.
Judge and Mrs. William M. Fleming, Jr.
Judge and Mrs. John Flythe
Mr. and Mrs. John Gibson
Mrs. Bonnie Given and Dr. Joseph Leonard
Dr. and Mrs. Joseph W. Griffin
Mr. and Mrs. David H. Hanks
Dr. Paulette Harris and Mr. Steve Ruby
Mr. and Mrs. Tennent Houston, Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. Jerry W. Howington
Mr. and Mrs. David Hudson
Mr. Louis C. Hutt
Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Johnson
Dr. and Mrs. Ray E. Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. William P. Kanto, Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. William R. Kitchens
Dr. and Mrs. Jonathan Krauss
Mr. and Mrs. William B. Kuhlke, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Wayland W. Lamar
Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Lewis
Mr. and Mrs. David Lindroth
Dr. and Mrs. Malcolm Luxenberg
Mr. and Mrs. William L. Macuch
Mr. and Mrs. John S. Markwalter
Dr. and Mrs. Fred Marschalk
Dr. and Mrs. J. William McCord
Mr. and Mrs. W. L. McCrary III
Mr. and Mrs. Hugh M. McCrary III
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel M. McLeod
Drs. Frank and Nanci McPhail
Mr. C. O. McPherson
Mr. E. G. Meybohm
Dr. and Mrs. W. Harold Moon
Mr. W. D. Morris, Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. Byron Neely
Mr. and Mrs. Alex Nixon
Mr. and Mrs. Cobbs Nixon
Mr. and Mrs. Whitney C. O’Keeffe
Dr. and Mrs. R. Glen Owen, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Oliver W. Owens
Mr. and Mrs. Travers W. Paine III
Mr. and Mrs. Don Patterson
Mr. and Mrs. Heath Perry
Dr. and Mrs. Edward S. Pobubsky
Dr. and Mrs. Andy C. Reese
Dr. and Mrs. John E. Riffle
Dr. and Mrs. Michael B. Rogers
Dr. and Mrs. R. W. Schilling, Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. David F. Scott
Dr. and Mrs. Harry C. Sherman
Mr. and Mrs. G. Bryan Simkins
Mr. and Mrs. Jon Simowitz
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Sims
Dr. and Mrs. Randy Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Carl T. Sutherland, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Taylor
Dr. and Mrs. T. Barrett Trotter
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel E. Tyson
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Vagovic
Mr. and Mrs. Harry C. Vaiden III
Mr. and Mrs. Phil Wahl
Dr. and Mrs. Michael Whitolw
Mr. and Mrs. Barry Whitney
Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Williamson
Dr. and Mrs. Roy Witherington
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Woods
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Young
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Mrs. Andrea K. Adams  
Allen County Public Library, Ft. Wayne, IN  
(Genealogy Periodicals)
Ms. Dorothy Ashe  
Mrs. Velma S. Bedingfield  
Mrs. Jacquelyn M. Blanchard  
Mr. Clayton Boardman III  
Mr. Jean Bowles  
Mrs. Patricia W. Brigham  
Dr. Russell K. Brown  
Ms. Vickie L. Bufford  
Mrs. Margaret Capers  
Dr. Thomas V. Casella  
Mr. L. Phillip Christman II  
Ms. Nanette Connell  
Ms. Audrey Croft  
Mr. Brad Cunningham  
Mr. Edward Damon  
Ms. Jean P. Daniel  
Ms. Annie L. Davis  
Mrs. Margaret Dunstan  
Dr. Lois Ellison  
Ms. C. Elizabeth Fanning  
Dr. Jim Garvey  
Mr. Fred Gehle  
Mr. Ed Gillespie  
Dr. Kenna S. Given  
Ms. Nancy J. Glaser  
Mr. Paul R. Gonzalez  
Dr. Charles G. Green, Jr.  
Ms. Vicki H. Greene  
Miss Constance Grimauade  
Mr. Bryan Haltermann  
Mrs. Annie Hamilton  
Mrs. Annette D. Harlan  
Mr. Tim Hayes  
Mrs. Constance Herndon  
Ms. Sue Herries  
Mrs. Stephanie P. Herzberg  
Mr. Ed Holmes  
Mrs. Daphne G. Hopson  
Mrs. Sada Huggins  
Ms. Janice M. Johnson  
Mr. Joseph M. Lee III  
Ms. Julia B. Leisenring

Mrs. Jennie Leitch  
Ms. Gloria B. Lewis  
Mr. Jacob Lowrey III  
Mr. Richard Magruder, Jr.  
Mr. Hamp Manning  
Ms. Eleanor L. Matthews  
Ms. Barbara B. McCutcheon  
Ms. Barbara A. McGahee  
Mrs. Ann D. McKnight  
Mr. James M. Menger  
Mrs. Robert L. Moore  
Mr. Robert A. Mullins  
Ms. Deborah Myers  
Mr. William N. Nelson  
Ms. Alethia E. Nowell  
Mrs. Nancy M. Parks  
Mr. David C. Penix  
Ms. Whitney B. Pickett  
Mrs. Anne Proctor  
Mr. Bettis C. Rainsford  
Mr. Steven J. Rauch  
Mrs. Harriet Reynolds  
Ms. Frances W. Rhodes  
Mrs. Myrtle M. Rogers  
Mrs. Susan Rogers  
Mr. Louis Saul  
Mr. Stan Schrader  
Mrs. Anne Sherman  
Mrs. Barbara L. Sims  
Ms. Barbara A. Steele  
Mr. Michael J. Taylor  
Mr. Michael Taylor, Jr.  
Ms. Caroline K. Tefft  
Ms. Carmen L. Thompson  
Mr. William M. Tilt  
Mrs. Yvonne Trest  
Mr. Charlie Tudor III  
University of Georgia Library - Periodicals  
Mr. Richard P. Wagner  
Dr. Benjamin H. Walker  
Mr. J. K. Widener, Jr.  
Ms. Evalyn S. Wilkinson  
Ms. Susan Yarborough
The Augusta History Museum has announced the theme and speakers for the 2017 Brown Bag History Lecture Series, which begins in January.

The topics will get the public further acquainted with the River Region while exploring distinctive communities in the area.

The talks begin at 12:30 p.m. in the museum’s Rotunda and History Theater and end at 1 p.m., followed by a question and answer session. Participants should bring a lunch, but the museum will provide beverages. Lunch can begin as early as 11:30 a.m. The price is free for members and $3 for nonmembers.

January 11: The Distinctive Communities of the River Region, an overview; Dr. Lee Ann Caldwell, Augusta University’s historian and director for the Study of Georgia History, will give an overview of the diversity and qualities of six thriving communities in the River Region.

February 8: Edgefield, Town and County; Bettis Rainsford, of the Rainsford Development Corp., will discuss the long history of Edgefield County.

March 8: Aiken; Brenda Baratto, executive director of the Aiken County Historical Museum, will discuss Aiken’s history.

April 12: North Augusta; Milledge Murray, president of the North Augusta Heritage Council, will discuss North Augusta’s history.

May 10: Augusta; Bill Kirby, of The Augusta Chronicle, will discuss the history of Augusta.

June 14: Beech Island; Elizabeth Laney, a Redcliffe Plantation Park interpreter, will discuss the history of Beech Island.

July 12: Appling; Bill Morris, Columbia County commissioner, will discuss Appling’s history.

September 13: Waynesboro; Jesse Stone and Ben Palmer will detail Waynesboro’s history.

October 11: Thomson; Elizabeth Vance, director of CVB McDuffie County, will discuss the history of Thomson.

November 8: The River Region in Augusta Museum of History’s Collection; Lauren Virgo, registrar at the museum, will take visitors on a visual journey through artifacts related to area communities.
SAVE THE DATE
7th ANNUAL DYESS SYMPOSIUM
5 JANUARY 2017

On Thursday, 5 January 2017, at 5 p.m., the Augusta Museum of History will host the 7th annual Jimmie Dyess Symposium. Dyess, the only person to have earned America’s two highest awards for heroism, the Medal of Honor and the Carnegie Medal, will be honored at this event. This very special symposium also identifies others who have shown similar valor or made civic contributions above and beyond the call of duty. This event supports six worthy causes. No other fund raising event in the CSRA has such a wide impact.

Three individuals will be honored with the Symposium’s 2017 Distinguished American Award: Medal of Honor recipient Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Harold Arthur “Hal” Fritz; Beverly Barnhart, local educator extraordinaire; and Ambassador Theodore R. Britton Jr.

Hal Fritz is a native of Chicago. While serving as a junior officer in Vietnam in 1969, he showed conspicuous leadership during a firefight despite being wounded and was subsequently awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions. He later completed twenty-seven years of active duty. Beverly Barnhart helped establish the magnet school system in Richmond County in the 1970s and served as first principal at John S. Davidson Fine Arts School for nineteen years. Mrs. Barnhart has been cited for “blaz[ing] the trail” for infusing arts into the classroom. Ambassador Britton is a native of North Augusta. Following active duty in the Marine Corps in World War II and Korea, he completed his education, and served as a sub-cabinet officer and as U.S. ambassador to several Caribbean nations during the Ford Administration.

The Museum is located at the corner of Reynolds and 6th street in downtown Augusta. The public is invited and there is no charge, however, sponsorships are welcome. Please contact the Museum at (706) 722-8454. Checks should be made out to the Augusta Museum of History and sent to the Museum at 560 Reynolds Street, Augusta, Ga. 30901.

Questions? Please contact Major General Perry Smith, US Air Force (ret.), at genpsmith@aol.com or telephone 706-399-9754, or Nancy J. Glaser, Executive Director, at amh@augustamuseum.org
Memory Walkway

ARCHS oversees Heroes Overlook, 10th Street at Riverwalk, a memorial honoring the men and women of our community who have won the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, or the Navy Cross. Surrounding this memorial is a Memory Walkway with more than 900 bricks inscribed with the names of loved ones, organizations, and events to be honored and remembered. Bricks are available for a one-time fee of $75. It takes about 6 weeks for each brick to be inscribed and placed on the walkway. Bricks are dedicated each year at our Veterans Day celebration. For more information, please call Elaine Benton, 706-737-1532.

Korean War and Viet Nam Veterans

ARCHS want to interview you!

Call Elaine Benton at 706-737-1532
or email archs1946@gmail.com for scheduling.

Interviews are videoed with copies filed in Special Collections, Reese Library and Library of Congress.

Participants also get a free copy and can purchase additional copies.

A great Christmas present for grandchildren.

It can be saved until they want to listen.

Augusta Richmond County Historical Society Veterans History Project
The Civil War Round Table of Augusta

Join this diverse group of people who are passionate about history. You may find history can actually be exciting! The meetings are on the third (3rd) Monday of the month at the Snelling Center, Goodwill Industries, 3165 Washington Road at Furys Ferry Road. Cost to attend the meeting is $12 which includes dinner, drink, tax, and tip. Dinner begins at 6:00 P.M.

Program Schedule


JANUARY 16, 2017: ROBERT E. BONNER, History Chair, Dartmouth College, presents a biographical study of Confederate Vice-President Alexander H. Stephens titled Master of Lost Causes.

FEBRUARY 20: LEN REIDEL, executive director of the Blue and Gray Education Society, presents on Civil War Battlefield Tours.

MARCH 20: ED BEARSS, an evening with the National Park Service Chief Historian Emeritus and a “rock star among battlefield guides.”

APRIL 17: VINCE DOOLEY, board member of the Civil War Trust, presents on “Leading From the Front.”

MAY 15: PAUL QUIGLEY, professor at Virginia Tech, presents on “The Confederacy’s European Problem.”

JUNE 19: GERALD PROKOPOWICZ, History Chair, East Carolina University, Greenville, N. C., presents on his book, “Did Lincoln Own Slaves?”

JULY 17: MATTHEW BOROWICK, Associate Vice President, Seaton Hall University, and columnist for Civil War News, presents on “The Court Martial of Fitz John Porter.”

OCTOBER 16: JACK DAVIS, professor of history at Virginia Tech and Director of Programs at that school’s Virginia Center for Civil War Studies, presents on “Love Amid the Ruins: The Romance of Nannie Radford and General Gabriel Wharton, CSA.”

AUGUST, SEPTEMBER AND NOVEMBER SPEAKERS NOT YET CONFIRMED.
Publications of the
Augusta Richmond County Historical Society, Inc.

Augusta: A Pictorial History
Dr. Helen Callahan...........................................Hardback............................. $45.00

Confederate City: Augusta, Georgia, 1860-1865
Dr. Florence Fleming Corley.............................Hardback............................. $35.00

Historical Markers and Monuments of Richmond County, Georgia
Marguerite Flint Fogleman...............................Paperback........................... $9.95

Reminiscences of Augusta Marines
Edited by A. Ray Rowland.............................Hardback............................. $15.00

Journal of Lt. Col. Archibald Campbell
Edited by Colin Campbell...............................Paperback............................. $15.00

Memories: The Academy of Richmond County, 1783-1983
Alethia E. Nowell...........................................Hardback............................. $25.00

Trustees of the Town: The Story of Richmond Academy Trustees
Alethia E. Nowell...........................................Hardback............................. $20.00

From Greenhouses to Green Jackets (Expanded Edition)
Compiled and Edited by
Dr. Russell K. Brown...............................Paperback............................. $20.00

From Balloons to Blue Angels
Dr. Edward J. Cashin.....................................Hardback............................. $25.00
Paperback............................................. $18.00

Semple’s Alabama Battery: Augusta’s Civil War Legacy in Bronze
Dr. Russell K. Brown.....................................Hardback............................. $30.00
Paperback............................................. $20.00

War Stories: Augusta Area Veterans Remember World War II
DVD......................................................... $20.00

Check our website for additional titles and ordering information:
www.theARCHS.org
Or call us at (706) 737-1532.