



# NOW YOU KNOW

February 2014

N o r t h e a s t   G e o r g i a   H i s t o r y   C e n t e r

## Chief Whitepath's Cabin



How did we go from this?



To this?

How old is that cabin? Who lived there? How did it get here?

These are questions we at the History Center get a lot about the White Path home... and the answer to each is fascinating. And we've been making improvements to the cabin to better help tell the story of the cabin and its inhabitants. We began those changes nearly two years ago with a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission, and thanks to a generous donation from the Cooley family we'll be completing our new interpretation soon!

The cabin will remain open for visitors, but please be aware that we'll be making a few changes, improvements, and repairs to the cabin as well as to part of the museum atrium. We're especially excited about some short documentary films in development that highlight White Path, the history of the cabin, and the story of how it was saved by Don Cooley for future generations. So stop by the History Center, see what's going on, and stay tuned for better things for the jewel in the crown of our historic collection!

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Ed Parks is a good man to know, whether you're interested in the history of Hall County—he's lived here all his life—in the Korean War, in auto racing ... or whatever.

And if you need someone who has pull with Richard Petty, the famous race car driver, E.T. "Ed" Parks III is your man. Richard and Ed have been friends for many years.

When Ed approached Richard about speaking at the 2013 Taste of History fundraiser on the history of auto racing, "The King" said yes, I'll do it for you, Ed, and for the history center. And author and columnist Ronda Rich, another friend, agreed to emcee the event. More than 480 people—the largest Taste of History crowd yet—packed the banquet hall at Gainesville's First Baptist Church last August to hear Richard talk racing with Ronda.

Ed goes back a long way with the history center—back to its fledg-

ling days at the old city fire station in downtown Gainesville. "There wasn't a lot there to start with," he said. "But I'm very impressed with it now."

Even Richard Petty was impressed with the history center. "He mentions it to me every time I see him now," Ed said, "so it's made me even happier with what we've got. He says it's one of the nicest history centers he's ever been in, and he said he had such a good time here."

Ed was also instrumental in setting up two forums on auto racing several years ago. Among the racing notables he persuaded to attend was Raymond Parks, the daddy of stock car racing as we know it today.

Ed, a former board member, has been involved in a number of other activities at the history center. For three years, he has been one of the veterans who talk to students about serving in the military. Ed served in the U.S. Army for three years—18 months of that time in Korea. The Korean War was still going on his first year in the country.

"What we try to do," he said, "is to teach them (the students) about patriotism. This country has forgotten the patriotism that we need ... and how much we ought to love this country."



For that Korean War-era Jeep you see at the history center, incidentally, you can thank W.J. "Bill" Reed for donating it and Ed Parks for suggesting it was a good idea.

Ed and his wife, Randi, are regulars at the history center forums. In fact, it was Randi who encouraged a group of friends to meet for dinner at Longstreet Café on the second Tuesday of the month and then attend the forum. "We ought to have more interest in this," she said, and she did something about it.

The Parks have two children, Doug Parks and Edna Haywood; three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. They attend First United Methodist Church, and Ed is involved in the Longstreet Society and monthly meetings of Korean War veterans.

So, Ed and Randi, we appreciate what you do for the history center. We need more members like you who aren't shy about promoting the history center and its programs.

## Hearts, Health, and History

Sunday, February 9, 1 to 4 p.m.

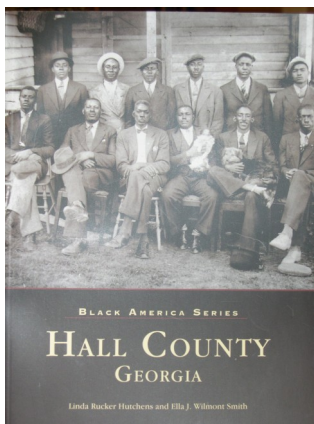
February is Heart Month as designated by the American Heart Association as well as being the month of Valentine's Day. And we will focus on heart health and healthy living, plus Valentines and some history of each topic.



### Activities and Exhibits

- ◇ Heart Healthy Scavenger Hunt at 2:30 p.m.
- ◇ Learn to take your pulse and listen to your heart, courtesy of John Shockley, EMT
- ◇ "How to Administer CPR" demonstrations, courtesy of Beverly Walker and Hall County Emergency Services
- ◇ Make edible "blood," monster Valentines, and sun catcher hearts
- ◇ Examine a (real) beef heart and compare it to the human heart, courtesy of Durwood Pepper and Publix in the Village, Dawsonville Highway;
- ◇ "How to Make a Healthy Home" exhibit, courtesy of the American Heart Association
- ◇ The Ronnie Green Heart Center and W. D. Stribling Heart Clinic exhibit, courtesy of Northeast Georgia Medical Center.

Family Day sponsored by North Georgia Eye Clinic and Laser Center



## Forum

Please join us on Tuesday, February 11th at 7:00 p.m. for our monthly forum. The topic this month is *African-American History in Hall County*, presented by Linda Rucker Hutchens and Ella J. Wilmont Smith, co-authors of *Hall County Georgia*, a book in the Black America Series from Arcadia Publishing that is available in the Museum Shop. Admission is free for members and \$3 for non-members.

### Announcing the History Center's 2014 Summer Camps

In commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War, *The Blue and The Gray: The Civil War in Northeast Georgia* is the camp theme for 2014. Camp Session 1 is June 16-20, and Camp Session 2 is June 23-27. Hours are 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. daily. The camps are designed for rising fourth graders through eighth graders. Camp fees are to be announced. Enrollment in each session is limited. For more information, please call Julie Carson





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The Northeast Georgia History Center is a not-for-profit institution dedicated to preserving and sharing the history of the region. By maintaining a unique collection of historical items, presenting exhibits, conducting programs, enabling research, and partnering with other institutions in the region, the History Center strives to promote a greater understanding of the cultural, social, economical, and political history of Northeast Georgia.

**C o m i n g E v e n t s**

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|--------------------|-------------------|---|
| <b>February 6</b>  | <b>5:30 p.m.</b>  | <b>Reception Honoring<br/>Frances Mathis</b>              |
| <b>February 9</b>  | <b>1:00-4:00</b>  | <b>Family Day-<br/>Hearts, Health &amp; History</b>       |
| <b>February 11</b> | <b>10:00 a.m.</b> | <b>Executive Comm. Meeting</b>                            |
|                    | <b>7:00 p.m.</b>  | <b>Forum-<br/>African-American History in Hall County</b> |

The History Center wishes to extend its extreme appreciation to Anita Bennett and the Hospitality committee for the wonderful wine and cheese reception following our Annual Meeting on January 16th.

The members of this committee include Anita Bennett, Gayla Pierce, Connie Propes and Doris Sosebee.

Without their tireless efforts, our special events would not happen.

They have also been pressed into service for a reception honoring Frances Mathis and the reopening of the Frances Mathis and Phil Mathis Folk Art Gallery.

Thank you ladies for the beautiful (as well as tasty!) work that you do!