



Northeast Georgia History Center

June
2016

2016 History Center

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The New Gainsville Chautauqua: Becoming America Northeast Georgia History Center to Celebrate Century-Old Traditions This Summer

The theme for the inaugural season of the New Gainsville Chautauqua, 'Becoming America', explores how our nation came to be and how it changes in response to the needs – and actions – of its people. The citizens, indeed icons, presented over the course of the series – Patrick Henry, Abigail Adams, Harriet Tubman - will each tell a part of the story of America's development using their own perspectives from the nation's Colonial beginnings and War for Independence, through the creation of its Constitution and Bill of Rights, to country's ongoing rededication to freedom and equality brought about by the fiery crucible of Civil War.

What is "Chautauqua"?

Chautauqua was an adult and family education movement that was highly popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries – its name comes from where the programs were first produced at a campsite on the shores of Chautauqua Lake in New York State. Chautauqua assemblies expanded and spread throughout rural America until the mid-1920s. The Chautauqua brought entertainment and culture for the whole community, with speakers, teachers, musicians, entertainers, preachers and specialists of the day. At the turn of the century, Gainesville was home to an incredibly successful event, but it had fallen away by 1918.

Now, it's back! The History Center is proud to present the New Gainsville Chautauqua, a summer series of Living History Character performances taking place at our regular Forums during the months of June, July, and August.

June 14 – Patrick Henry – 'Empire or Liberty?'

It is June of 1788, and the recently independent United States are debating the new Constitution of the United States, with Patrick Henry, the noted Patriot, arguing for rejecting, not ratifying, the document and the government it would establish – since as written it does not sufficiently protect the rights of the people.

Presented in the History Center Amphitheatre. Doors open at 6 p.m., performances at 7 p.m. Admission is \$5.00 and free for members!

Not yet a member?

Need to renew?

Here's how:

- ◆ **Come by in person**
- ◆ **Mail a check**
- ◆ **Pay online.**

www.negahc.org

Recent Events

Freedom Garden Ceremony

On May 21st, Armed Forces Day, 70 people attended a ceremony honoring the newest additions to the American Freedom Garden. The Hall County Sheriff Department Honor Guard presented the national colors and Deputy Jonathan Jackson sang the National Anthem. Sheriff Gerald Couch shared the significance the Freedom Garden holds for himself and his family. Lt. Col. Scott Ballard and Glen Kyle read the names of the latest 24 honorees. Among the attendees were Governor and Mrs. Nathan Deal, who have several family members honored in the Garden.



Lt. Col. Scott Ballard, Sheriff Gerald Couch, Chaplain Bryan Bordelon

Summer Camp– Openings Available



“Time Travel Summer”

Session One Dates/Times – June 13-17, 2016 – 9:30am-2:30pm

Session Two Dates/Times – June 20-24, 2016 – 9:30am-2:30pm

Price: \$75 for History Center Member families,
\$100 for non-Member families

Discount: 15% for each additional sibling

Ages: rising 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th graders

Join us for hands-on activities, living history demonstrations, and field trips as we experience 2,000 years of Historic Fun! Day campers will march in 1st century Roman armor, cook in 11th century Medieval cauldrons, make 17th century Native American pottery, churn butter 19th century style – and more as we explore the 1st through 19th centuries.

Donations Please!

Time to dig through the attic, the tool shed, and the basement because the History Center is looking for some help! We'd like to build up our supply of old farm and household hand tools for demonstrations and hands-on activities. We're looking for things like bow saws, crosscut saws, antique hammers, shovels, hoes, but they need to be USABLE! If you have something like this you'd be willing to donate, please let us know!

Spotlight

In 2003, several individuals, especially John Jacobs, Jr., began thinking that the Northeast Georgia History Center might include in its exhibits a tribute to those responsible for the freedom we enjoy in our everyday life. The goal was to honor all military veterans, not only those who gave their lives, but those who offered their lives while serving their country. Just adjacent to the History Center was an old apartment complex which would be an ideal location if the property could be purchased. Dr. John Burd, then President of Brenau University, agreed to provide funds to purchase the property if it became available and then lease it back to the History Center for \$1 a year. The property owner, Robert Lathem, who was a World War II veteran, was approached by Mr. Jacobs and he agreed to demolish the apartments and sell the property to Brenau.

A group of veterans met, and after much discussion, approved a plan of creating a freedom garden. By that time, all agreed that there should be a centerpiece which would relate to the theme of the garden. The question was: What should it be? A military figure or something else?

A few months later, on a trip to Santa Fe, Martha and John Jacobs saw a life-size bronze statue of five happy children in a circle by Gary Lee Price. They could not help but notice that there was an open space between two of the children and they wondered why. They were told that every child who walked by would approach the statue and hold hands with the statue children, thus completing the circle. John Jacobs said that, like a lightning bolt, the thought came to him that this was what the garden was to be about – the gift



of freedom to the generations which followed. There could be no better way to portray that gift than a statue of happy children enjoying life in a free America.

Names of veterans to be honored are inscribed on granite pillars in a circle, surrounding the children's "Circle of Freedom" statue. Engraved on the back wall of the Garden is the "Pathway to Freedom" – a narrative description, by retired history professor Heyward Gnann, of the wars and conflicts our country has experienced. The Freedom Garden was dedicated on May 19, 2007.

Welcome David Cook!



David was born in Houston Texas, but lived for many years in Cali, Colombia before moving back to the U.S. He was bitten with the film bug by the age of 11 when he first saw the film

Jurassic Park. Since then, he always tried to get involved in film making in what ever capacity he could. He volunteered at TV18's Government channel under producer Ronny Childs, and most recently, was a videographer covering news events for Jacobs Media here in town. He also got to work for productions like the *Walking Dead* and *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1*. Currently he is a senior Mass Communications student at Brenau

University and is looking forward to all the great video and media content that he'll be able to create at the History Center.

As our new Digital media producer, David will not only be making some great promotional videos for the History Center, some of which you may have already seen and are now available on our website and Facebook page. Most importantly, though, he'll be the technical expertise behind our

initiative to reach out to the schools with new media with downloadable curriculum-based content, direct-to-classroom broadcasts, and our efforts to use new technologies to make history come alive for students throughout the northeast Georgia region.

We welcome David to our staff!



Northeast Georgia History Center

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www.negahc.org

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.

Calendar of Events

June 13– 17	9:30 am-2:30 pm	Summer Camp Session 1
June 14	7:00 pm	Chautauqua– <i>Patrick Henry</i>
June 16	11:30-1:00	Board Meeting
June 20-24	9:30 am-2:30 pm	Summer Camp Session 2

Items of Interest

New Members

David & Rebecca Smith
 Susan Smithson
 Frank Sherwood
 Mike & Dianne Martin
 Julius & Shirley Williams



Honorariums

Given in Honor of Jeff Pierce
 By Modern Topics Study Club

Memorials

Given in Memory of Happy Kirkpatrick

By: Mary Jardine
 Heritage House Condominium
 Barbara & Fleming Weaver
 The Medical Center Auxiliary
 Katherine Carlyle

Given in Memory of Dr. Ted Robinson
 By Barbara & Fleming Weaver

Given in Memory of Gordon Sawyer
 By Paddy Blalock