



# THE LANDMARKER

A PUBLICATION BY COBB LANDMARKS AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

December 2010 Marietta, Georgia

***Mark Your Calendars for the 2011 Annual Meeting,  
January 18, at the Old Mill in Historic Downtown Acworth***

The Cobb Landmarks and Historical Society's Annual Membership Meeting is the time when the membership of CLHS has the opportunity to review the accomplishments of our organization over the past year and to hear the exciting plans for the coming year. This year's meeting, scheduled for Tuesday evening, January 18, at 7:00 p.m., will be no exception. Members are encouraged to attend this important meeting, at which the financial status of CLHS will be recapped, board members will be elected, and annual awards will be presented. As always, members will have the opportunity to see old friends in our society, make new ones, and enjoy the camaraderie with fellow preservation enthusiasts.

The board of CLHS decided this year to break with recent tradition (or to go back to an older tradition) by taking the meeting outside Marietta. This year's event will be held at the Old Mill Restaurant, at 4271 Southside Drive, right next to the railroad track, in historic downtown Acworth. This beautifully renovated building is chock full of interesting local history and provides an excellent example of the adaptive re-use of an old and important building.



The Old Mill Restaurant rose from the ashes of an old flour mill, built around 1870 by John Cowan, whose name is well-known in Acworth. Legend has it that Cowan left his hometown of Acworth to become a prospector in Montana's Black Hills, looking for gold while battling the elements, wild animals, and native Americans, as well as other prospectors. In 1864 he reached a tributary of the Missouri River, where he is said to have told his disheartened companions, "Boys, this gulch is our last chance." After he had the good fortune to strike gold at the "Last Chance Gulch" mine near Helena (a city founded by the "Four Georgians": Cowan and three others), he returned home to Acworth a rich man and started a flour business with his friend Tarlton Moore. Their high-quality "Lynette Flour" was produced in the mill, which, over the next 120-plus years, produced textiles and tapestries as well. The mill mysteriously burned in 1992.

By the early 2000s, when the Old Mill was a ruin scheduled for demolition, a group of preservation-minded Acworthians formed an organization they called Acworth's Old Mill Partners, and they developed a plan for rehabilitating the Old Mill by turning it into a fine dining restaurant. The plan, developed by the partnership of local artist Carol Allegood (wife of Mayor Tommy Allegood), builder Chris Sullivan, property owners John and Gina McMiniman, restaurateur Steven Dudley, and architect Dale Peek, represents a unique approach to historic preservation and downtown re-development. The Old Mill won an award for the private sector's Best Rehabilitation/Restoration for 2006 by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs' Office of Downtown Development and the Georgia Downtown Association.

The Old Mill offers visitors a glimpse into the history of Acworth while providing a unique dining experience. The walls are covered with historic photographs, and the interior walls are restored brick, complete with a 75-foot smokestack. The bar is aptly named "The Last Chance" in homage to the famous mine discovered by the Four Georgians who made their mark, and their fortunes, in the wild west.

Cobb Landmarks is excited and honored to have the opportunity to hold our annual meeting in this interesting and historic place. Mayor Tommy Allegood has graciously offered us the use of the space (whose days of operation are Wednesday through Sunday) at no charge, other than the cash bar. The food for this special meeting will be provided, as always, by the CLHS Board of Trustees. So mark your calendars now for January 18. We look forward to seeing you!

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## Notes from Nancy

The close of the year is a reflective time for me. I have the opportunity to look back at accomplishments, the responsibility to study those “bumps in the road” that caused a few sleepless nights, and the privilege to contemplate the promise of the future.

I celebrated one year of service with CLHS in November; my first year in my new career. It was a year of learning: members, properties, activities, software, nonprofit regulations, and financial history. It was also a year of firsts: working on Hyde Farm with the National Park Service and Cobb County, assisting with the launch of a new book, speaking on behalf of CLHS, contributing to the strategic plan, and receiving my masters degree.

All the “bumps” have provided opportunities to learn, grow, prioritize, and reprioritize. They also have given me untold respect and admiration for those who have preceded me in this position. I believe they were part magician, part wizard, and undoubtedly superior multi-taskers. Bravo to you all!

The future – our future: The Preservation Community might consider the words of Leonardo da Vinci as its call to arms, “I have been impressed with the urgency of doing. Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Being willing is not enough; we must do.” I will admit one of my biggest frustrations is how slow “preservation” moves at times. While I am praying for patience, I will continue to push the envelope and keep attention on preserving and protecting our irreplaceable resources. The recently developed CLHS Strategic Plan envisions our organization as defining preservation leadership, and thus “we must do.” In times of economic challenges, preservation can drop in priority in the public and private sectors. CLHS will continue to be visible in our communities and with our community leaders, delivering our mantra of “preserve, protect and promote.” There is no time more important than now to heighten and sustain the public’s perception of the importance of our heritage.

My sincere appreciation and thanks go to all those who have assisted me through the year, been patient with me as I learned all the ins and outs of CLHS, and listened to my thoughts and ideas about our future. I am overwhelmed with the number of hours that are devoted to CLHS by our Board members, staff, volunteers, and docents. My special thanks go to Maryellen, Jenny, and Katie – the wonderful CLHS staff – for their intellectual and personal contribution to our success, for their commitment to our mission, and for their grace under pressure, which, according to Hemingway, is Courage.

My best wishes for a peaceful new year,

*Nancy Gadberry*, Executive Director



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## *Root House Honored by The Colonial Dames of the Seventeenth Century*

*by Jane McGuigan and Cathy Brown*

On October 31, 2010, the Root House Museum received a very special honor from the Nicholas Wallingford Chapter of the Colonial Dames of the Seventeenth Century. On that day, the Root House was marked by this august group of patriots as a historical site of significance.

The organization Colonial Dames of the Seventeenth Century has as a goal the marking of important historic places. They wish to honor the history of our nation and to help encourage the preservation of historical sites. The effort to bestow this honorary marking on the Root House was spearheaded by Root House docent Jane McGuigan, a member of the Nicholas Wallingford Chapter of the Colonial Dames and a longtime member of Cobb Landmarks.

The Nicholas Wallingford Chapter had not previously presented a historical marking, and Chapter President Harriet Gustafson was eager to leave as her legacy the historic marking of the Cherokee Indian Trail Tree located on the property of Dr. and Mrs. James Manning in Marietta. When presenting this idea to the governing board of the Chapter in January 2010, she asked whether another local place should be so marked, and the Root House was suggested as a possible honoree.

Jane McGuigan, the Chapter representative appointed to research the Root House nomination, enlisted the aid of Root House Curator Maryellen Higginbotham, and they provided the Colonial Dames with written information and pictures. A series of eleven guidelines had to be met, including, significantly, a detailed history of the site. Their documentation was presented, along with that of the Cherokee Indian Trail Tree, at a special board meeting. At that meeting, in an unusual move, both projects were approved by the Chapter. The Chapter then submitted a formal application to the Georgia State Society of the Colonial Dames, which was approved and then sent on to the national level, where, on April 21, 2010, approval was granted for both projects to be historically marked. The Nicholas Wallingford Chapter's board approved a 10"X10" bronze plaque to be mounted near the front door of the William Root House; a similar plaque would be mounted on a boulder near the Cherokee Trail Tree.

In May, Mrs. Gustafson, who had proposed the historic markings in Marietta, became ill, and in August she died, just as the project was reaching fruition. A new Chapter President, Mrs. Elaine Cross, was appointed, and she and other ladies of the Chapter worked closely with Maryellen Higginbotham and CLHS Staff Docent Katie Odom to organize a formal ceremony and reception to be held at the Root House.

The afternoon of Sunday, October 31, was a fine one, fortunately for all who attended the mostly-outdoors event. After a period of socializing in the beautiful Root House garden, attendees gathered in the front garden, while officers of the Nicholas Wallingford Chapter spoke of their mission in marking historically important places in America. Jane McGuigan spoke eloquently about William Root, his family, his house, and their place in Marietta history. CLHS Co-chairs Chris and

Cathy Brown then unveiled the handsome marker. After the formal ceremony, guests enjoyed the delicious refreshments provided by the ladies of the Nicholas Wallingford Chapter while enjoying the Root House and the various demonstrations of 1850s life provided by our costumed docents. A favorite of the crowd was the spinning demonstration provided by Veronica Carey in the garden (see photo, left). The Colonial Dames and members of Cobb Landmarks enjoyed meeting each other and sharing our love of America and our history and our enthusiasm for historic preservation.

Cobb Landmarks and Historical Society wishes to thank the Nicholas Wallingford Chapter of the Colonial Dames of the Seventeenth Century for this honor, and the Colonial Dames and our wonderful staff for a truly special event.



*Jim and Florrie Corley join Jane McGuigan at the marking ceremony.*



## *Johnson Ferry Road : a History*

*by Mandy Elliott*

Johnson Ferry Road is named for William Marion Johnston, who operated a ferry across the Chattahoochee River beginning in the 1850s. Johnston, born in 1817, purchased 281 acres along the river in 1851. His property aligned with what is now known as Johnson Ferry Road. Johnston constructed his home west of the road, and it was still standing in the 1930s. Two of Johnston's sons, John and William, joined the Confederate army and were a part of Phillip's Legion. William died at the Battle of Sharpsburg, while John survived after being held as a prisoner of war.

Johnston died in 1879 and was survived by his third wife, Margrett. At the time of his death, Johnston retained 145 acres near the Chattahoochee. *The Atlanta Constitution* reported on December 19, 1879, that William Johnston's body was stolen from his burial site at a cemetery on Roswell Road. The newspapers went on to describe the search for the body at various medical schools in Atlanta and reports of the possible thieves crossing the Chattahoochee River on a ferry. Johnston's body was never recovered.

Johnson Ferry Road was likely in existence before the Civil War. It is noted as having been used by Federal troops as they traveled from Marietta to the mills in Roswell. The road was not paved until after 1946, when, in June of that year, Cobb voters passed a \$1.4 million bond referendum. The money was used to pave over one hundred miles of roads in Cobb County, including Johnson Ferry Road. These improvements were made after serious flooding occurred in the county in January 1946. The Johnson Ferry Road bridge crossing the Chattahoochee River was surrounded by flood waters.



*The flooded bridge in 1946*

Johnson Ferry Road and the surrounding area remained rural well into the 1970s, when the only store around was a country store and gas pump at the intersection of Lower Roswell Road and Johnson Ferry. However, by the 1980s, Johnson Ferry was one of the most traffic-congested roads in Cobb County.

At some point, the "t" in "Johnston" was dropped out of the name of the road. This appears to have happened in the late 19th or early 20th century, when some records used "Johnston" and others used "Johnson." On the first official Cobb County map in 1913, the road is labeled as "Johnson's Bridge Road."

*A very special thanks to Piedmont Graphics for printing The Landmarker!*

*Landmarker Editors  
Cathy Brown - Jim Corley - Abbie Parks*

## *Legacies of Sentiment, Paper, and Stones*

*by Morning Washburn*

One of the best aspects of living at Nowhere was the opportunity to visit and converse with George William Power (1903 - 1995). We enjoyed discussing news of the land, matters of stewardship, and some of the family history of this pioneer home place in the Mt. Bethel area. I learned that, in 1856, the cabin was the birthplace of his father, Charles Geiger Power, who later walked six miles up river to attend school at the Roswell Academy. George, a great-grandson of Isabella and Joseph Power, told me his story of how the log cabin came to be preserved by family sentiment during the recent time of massive suburban development. George spoke with respectful pride of having the original land lottery deed for this 320-acre farm of his grandparents, Winifred Copeland and George Abner Power.

In 2009, while working with others for the documentation and preservation of the c. 1830 stacked stone chimney overlooking the river in Sandy Springs, I was delighted to hear that those land lottery deeds might be coming closer to home again. Charles Groover, a nephew of George and Virginia Wing Power, had met with Daryl Barksdale and Jim Corley of Cobb

Landmarks to discuss a permanent home and display of the five deeds. Cobb Landmarks board member Ray Worden took

on the task of shepherding the process of restoration and the creation of archival copies. I was eager and thrilled to see the Power family land deeds dating from 1832. All of the handwritten two-page documents had interesting ink survey drawings and were still intact with ribbon and medallion beeswax seals.

In the summer of 2010, Talking Walls participants and I had the good fortune to meet with Katinia Lear, the Communi-



*Pictured above are Morning Washburn and Cathy Brown; to the right are members of the Power family at the chimney.*



cations Director for the City of Sandy Springs, as she designed interpretative panels for the city's new Overlook Park at Bull Sluice Lake above Morgan Falls Dam. Thanks to collaborative inspiration and effort, some of the panels include Power family history and the images of the land lottery deeds. In July, Cobb Landmarks Co-chair Cathy Brown and I attended the Grand Opening of Overlook Park. For me, our being there with several Power family members and seeing the circa 1830 chimney standing in a place of honor is another sweet turn in this ongoing story.

*Post script from CLHS Co-chair Cathy Brown:*

*At the board meeting on Tuesday, December 14, Ray Worden presented the land lottery deeds to Cobb Landmarks and Historical Society. As Morning mentions, Ray was responsible for seeing to the preservation and copying of the documents. Ray and Leigh Ann Worden are owners of Worden's Gallery on Kennesaw Avenue in Marietta. The original documents will be held in a safe deposit box at First Landmark Bank in Marietta. CLHS thanks Charles Groover for giving us the documents, Ray for preserving them, First Landmark for helping us keep them safe, and the City of Sandy Springs for helping us share them with the public.*



*Ray Worden thanks Charles Groover for his donation.*

**OUR COUNTY:**  
*a series of short articles on the history of Cobb County*

by Marion Blackwell, Jr.

Part Two: The Redistribution of the Land

The fate of the original owners and occupants of Cobb County was decided by the ambition and greed of two men. They were Andrew Jackson, old Indian fighter and President of the United States; and William Lumpkin, politician, lawyer, and Governor of the State of Georgia. Prominent Cherokee officials who participated in the redistribution discussions included John Ross, James Vann, The Ridge, and Elias Boudinot. William McIntosh, a Creek Chief and U. S. General, tried to get involved by bribing the Cherokees, unsuccessfully.

The discovery of gold in northeast Georgia in 1828 increased the pressure on Jackson, Lumpkin, and the Cherokees to turn the state over to the white government and settlers. Despite the fact that the Supreme Court had ruled in favor of the Cherokees in a well-known case in 1832, the ruling went unenforced by the executive, President Andrew Jackson, and the State of Georgia proceeded to give the Cherokee land to whites who moved in. The procedure to “fairly” distribute the lands into the hands of U. S. citizens is called the Land Lottery of 1832.

Look at your deed, or any deed. An important part is called the “legal description” of the property conveyed. The first words are almost always “All that tract or parcel of land lying in Land Lot \_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_th district of Cobb County, Georgia....”

The “land lots” were created and surveyed by the state. In areas where gold was suspected, the land lots were 40 acres, one-fourth mile square. In areas where gold was not suspected, the land lots were 160 acres each, one-half mile square. Cobb County has a good share of both sizes. In the area around Kennesaw Mountain and Marietta, for example, a line surveyed running north and south forms a division between the 160 and 40 acre land lots. No gold was suspected west of Kennesaw, so the land lots there are 160 acres. Land lots east of Kennesaw were suspected to be “gold lots” and are 40 acres.

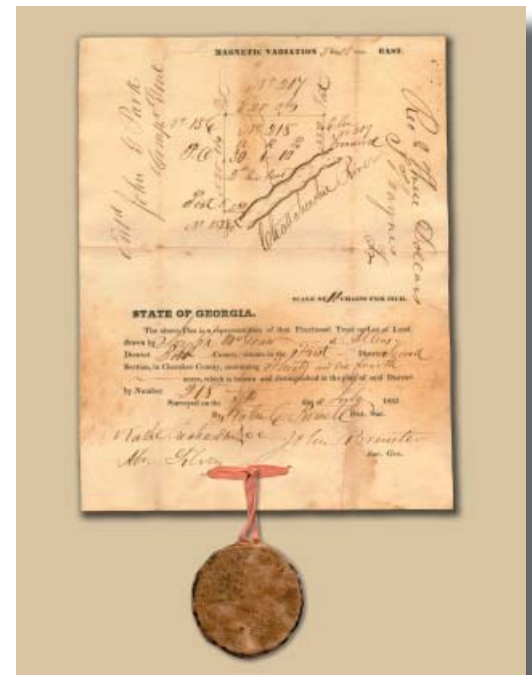
The entire county and adjoining counties, were carefully surveyed. Each land lot was numbered. Glover Park is in land lot 1218 of the 16th district, for example.

Then began the system of deciding who would get which land lot, as fairly as possible. This system is best described by Sarah Blackwell Gober Temple in her definitive Cobb County history, *The First Hundred Years*, as follows: “The drawings began on October 22, 1832. Names were placed on tickets which were deposited in one wheel, while the prizes of lots were deposited in another. A ticket bearing a name was drawn from one wheel; another ticket, bearing the number of the lot, was drawn from the other, and handed to the superintending managers. Lists of those drawing and their prizes appeared in the Gold and Land Lottery Register, published in Milledgeville.” Milledgeville was then the state capital. There were 85,000 tickets for 18,309 lots of land. The lottery was completed on April 29, 1833.

The 1832 Georgia Land Lottery led to one of the darkest spots on the history of our nation. All Cherokee lands were appraised and acquired by the state, and the original inhabitants were forced out of their land. First herded into “pens” scattered around north Georgia, they were then removed, in 1838, to a new territory in Oklahoma, leaving their old homes, farms, and memories far behind along the “Trail of Tears.” Four thousand Cherokees perished along the way.

Sources: *Native Lands: Indians & Georgia*, by Sarah H. Hill and Sue Evans Vrooman; *The First Hundred Years*, by Sarah Blackwell Gober Temple; Map “Cherokee Lands,” by Michael Hitt and Chuck Brown; *Marietta Quadrangle*, U. S. Department of the Interior; *Trail of Tears*, by John Ehle.

Next: Part three, Early Towns and Settlements (Have you ever been to Buffalo Fish Town?)



## ***It's Time to Renew***

*by Stewart Campbell, Membership Co-chair*

Napoleon Bonaparte said that “an Army travels on its stomach,” and someone of note must have said that “a non-profit organization travels on its dues.” We have a hardworking and talented membership but have fallen short of our budget on renewals and income from dues. We depend on dues to cover basic operating expenses like utilities and maintenance at the Root House and the Power Cabin and to pay our staff, which are now part-time because of budget restraints.

As you know, we have several high-profile fundraising events throughout the year, but income from dues is our overwhelming source of funding, and it is hoped you will think of dues as a standalone commitment to our mission.

Nearly all of you will receive a renewal letter within the month, and we hope that you will respond promptly and generously. After we've posted your response, we'll mail an acknowledgement card, which features a tear-away membership card. This card can then be used to redeem your free tour of the Root House, provide identification for your 20% discount at Mr. Root's Store, and allow you to attend various “Members Only” CLHS events throughout the year.

If you are a former member, please rejoin. We have many projects listed in our Strategic Plan for 2011, and we would be so much closer to achieving them if you came back on board.

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## *Christmas and the Pilgrimage at the Root House*



### *Docent Doings*

*by Katie Odom, Staff Docent*

This time of year, it is nice to be able to sit down for a moment, show appreciation for hard work, and enjoy each other's company. On December 10th, the Root House docents, staff, and other friends and family gathered at Eleanor and Bill Johnson's house to celebrate another special year at the museum. CLHS Program Coordinator Jenny Goldemund, with the help of Root House Museum and Garden Curator Maryellen Higginbotham, put together a holiday feast with a Polish stew called bigos, ham, and vegetable plates. There were many delectable desserts, including authentic sugar plums for a sweet end to the evening.

On December 18th, the Root House junior docents gathered together at the museum for a Christmas party. About fourteen of our juniors were in attendance, and they all enjoyed pizza, treats, and warm apple cider. Some took turns playing instruments and singing Christmas carols, while others decorated gingerbread ornaments to share with friends and family. Also, it was warm enough to play a few games of Graces in the garden. What a fun afternoon!

All in all, these two occasions were the perfect way to wrap up and celebrate a fun and exciting year at the Root House Museum and Garden. We've introduced new tours and programs, and our volunteers have been a great support along the way. It can't be said enough—a big thank you to all of our docents, volunteers, parents, and supporters for helping the museum in so many ways. Happy Holidays!

*A special thanks to all our hosts for Guess Who's Coming to Dinner... events*

***An Elegant Evening: Dinner at the Pressleys'***

Adrian and Jim Pressley, Fran and Don Sutton, Pam and Randy Webb

***An Evening of Contemporary Art***

Pat and Dennis Koutouzis, Donna Krueger, Jennifer and Mark McMahon,  
Nancy Mitchell, Cameron and Travis Watson

***Beer, Wine and Brushstrokes***

Linda Flournoy, Kim Gresh and George Hartzog, Sally and Hugh Macaulay, Dawn and Tom McEachern,  
Leigh and Steve Pharr, Carson and Jeff Wernz, Leigh Ann and Ray Worden

***Blue Devil BBQ***

Fran and Glen Biddle, Beth and Danny Bourgeois, Kelie Bullard Crowe, Laurie and Josh Gazaway,  
Brennan and Kurt Rinehimer

***Bourbon, Steaks and Stogies***

Cassandra and Brian Buckalew, Wendy Bunch and Tom Heyer, Karen and Mike Carter,  
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***Fine Dining at Oakmont***

Tracie and Tom Guckian

***Guess Who'll be late for dinner again?***

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***Ladies' Brunch with Johnnie Gabriel***

Shannon Bohannon, Melissa Gilbert, Anna Longacre, Melissa Poston,  
Ami Stephens, Lori Weaver, and April Wright

***Let's Play Bridge***

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Jane Manning, Darlene and Terry Pendley

***Southern Comfort with Laretta Hannon***

Jennifer and Charlie Gay, Carolyn and Doug Chaffins, Allison and Chris Gruehn,  
Laura and John Harding, Rose Wing



Guests Mary and Cary Trippe along with Cate Gruehn enjoy the Blue Devil BBQ with two of the hosts, Fran Biddle and Kelie Bullard Crowe.



Allison and Thad Penuel enjoy the Blue Devil BBQ fundraiser on a cool evening in October.



Hostesses for the Ladies' Brunch with Johnnie Gabriel are (above, l to r) Shannon Bohannon, Lori Weaver, Anna Longacre, Johnnie Gabriel, Melissa Gilbert, Melissa Poston, and April Wright.



Guests enjoying the delicious brunch fare



Pictured on the left is the delicious spread at the Southern Comfort Event with Lauretta Hannon, which included cheese straws, mini BBQ phyllo cups, tomato, shrimp and cheese souffle, chicken salad finger sandwiches, mini Key Lime pies, and Banana Pudding Shots.



On the right is Hostess Jennifer Brett Gay with Cracker Queen Lauretta Hannon.

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or renew on line at [www.cobblandmarks.com](http://www.cobblandmarks.com)