



# THE LANDMARKER

A PUBLICATION BY COBB LANDMARKS AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

December 2011 Marietta, Georgia

## *The 2012 CLHS Annual Meeting Set for January 17 at the Historic Whitlock Inn*

As we wind up our December activities, which for Cobb Landmarks and Historical Society included a very successful Pilgrimage, it is time to start thinking ahead to January and our Annual Membership Meeting. This meeting offers the membership of Cobb Landmarks the opportunity to review our accomplishments over the last year and to learn about our exciting plans for next year. This is also the time when we conduct the important business of our organization, electing new board members, recapping our financial status, and presenting our Annual Awards. It is also a time for reconnecting with old friends in the preservation circle and for making new friends who share our passion for historic preservation.

This year's Annual Meeting promises a double treat, in that it will be held in two historic houses, located next door to each other on Whitlock Avenue in Marietta. The business meeting will convene at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 17, at the Whitlock Inn, located at 57 Whitlock Avenue. Owners Sandy and Nancy Edwards have graciously offered Cobb Landmarks the use of the Inn for this meeting, further extending the hospitality they have shown us throughout the past year by providing



*The Whitlock Inn*

us with our wonderful headquarters at the next-door Anderson House. In the new book *Marietta: The Gem City of Georgia*, published by Cobb Landmarks and Historical Society in 2011, author Douglas Frey describes the Whitlock Inn as "the anchor of one of the city's most beautiful historic districts." The Whitlock Avenue Historic District, which encompasses both the Whitlock Inn and the Anderson House, was the site of this year's Marietta Pilgrimage Tour of Homes. The district was named for the owner of a well-known resort hotel called the Whitlock House, which burned in the late 1880s. On the site of this burned-down hotel, Herbert Clifton Dobbs, a local hardware store owner, and his wife, Anna Hahr, built their home in 1900. The house was used as a family home until it was sold to the City of Marietta in 1977, after which it became a senior citizen center. The Edwardses bought it in 1993 and named it the Whit-

lock Inn. It is currently used as an event venue and is very popular as a site for wedding receptions, rehearsal dinners, and holiday parties. It is also the headquarters for their successful catering business, Carriage House Catering. The beautiful Colonial Revival style house, with its grand staircase, leaded glass windows, decorative plaster, and numerous distinctive architectural details, will provide a visual treat to Landmarkers as we plan how to preserve and protect other examples of our heritage.

After the business meeting, we will adjourn next door to CLHS headquarters, the Anderson House, for food and fellowship. The Anderson House, which was the site of this year's Pilgrimage's Bistro, is another architectural gem. [For more information about the Anderson House, see the June 2011 *Landmarker*.] This is your chance to celebrate friendships and preservation successes in a not-to-be-missed setting.

So, mark your calendars for the January 17 CLHS Annual Meeting. We hope to see you there!

[The above information about the Whitlock Inn was taken from *Marietta: The Gem City of Georgia* by Douglas Frey and Jim DiVitale, published by Cobb Landmarks and Historical Society, 2011, p. 279.]



*The Anderson House*

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## *Notes from Nancy*

*Nancy Gadberry, Executive Director*

*“I know the price of success: dedication, hard work, and an unremitting devotion to the things you want to see happen.” - Frank Lloyd Wright*

When Frank Lloyd Wright voiced this sentiment he probably didn't have a nonprofit preservation organization in mind, but I clearly see Cobb Landmarks in this quote. In addition to being the “price” of success, dedication, hard work, and devotion are hallmarks of a successful organization – our organization.

The lifeblood of any nonprofit is its volunteers. Without question, Cobb Landmarks is the beneficiary of huge amounts of volunteer equity. CLHS has a diverse set of activities that encourage a place for everyone who has an interest in the broad world of preservation and all the activities that support our preservation efforts, without which we could not exist.

Each year we are serving our community by operating and maintaining our house museum, the Root House Museum and Garden; developing and delivering heritage education programs; co-sponsoring the Pilgrimage, a state-recognized event that promotes historic Marietta; maintaining our historic Power Cabin and providing programs there; assisting the community with research; developing new preservation programs; publishing and promoting local preservation priorities; publishing a newsletter; and many other activities. In addition, we are a partner with Cobb County and the National Park Service in the ongoing efforts to rehab, interpret, and preserve Hyde Farm. And if you are not amazed by that, for the last year and half, Cobb Landmarks has been in the process of developing, publishing, bringing to market, and promoting *Marietta: the Gem City of Georgia*.

In order to “keep the doors open,” we rely on financial support from membership dues, the generous cash and in-kind donations of sponsors, and an incredible team of fundraisers who design, develop, and execute activities that are attractive to the community, who, in turn, buy the tickets and spread the word.

In addition to the more visible contributions, there is a host of activities that are carried out every year by Board members who give their time to development, governance, and legal and financial issues. Without this time-consuming foundation of commitment, devoted to ensuring our compliance with regulations and monitoring our organizational relevance in changing times, we could not continue to operate. Our nonprofit status is not a gift; it is a responsibility, and one that CLHS takes very seriously.

I am amazed and humbled by the amount of hard work that is done and the dedication and devotion of our Board, Staff, Members and Volunteers and our community, who generously support our efforts. It is inspiring to witness the honor and respect you have for each other's contribution and your passion for different aspects of our organization. I hope I never come to expect this level of commitment but always remember that people have a choice - a choice of where to spend their time, a choice to whom to write the check, and a choice of whom they speak well of in the community.

I want to take this time to sincerely thank all who have made the choice to give to Cobb Landmarks. I appreciate each and every one of you. I thank you for finding a place and giving to our organization in your own special way.

My best wishes for a peaceful new year,

*Nancy*

## *Co-chairs' Message*

January brings us to a transition time: transition from the celebrations of the holiday season; transition to a new year; maybe even a new resolution. It's a transition time for Cobb Landmarks and Historical Society as well with new board members, new committee members, and new officers for the organization.

What will not change in January, and we suspect maybe never, is the role Cobb Landmarks plays as we work to Preserve, Protect, and Promote the irreplaceable historic places and cultural heritage unique to Cobb County for the economic welfare, education, and pleasure of current and future generations of residents and visitors. Most of our work in the community, particularly that which promotes preservation, can only be successful because of our relationships with other groups and individuals.

A shining example of this success is the Annual Marietta Pilgrimage Tour of Homes. Cobb Landmarks worked with our partner in the Tour, the Marietta Welcome Center, and an enthusiastic Pilgrimage Committee under the leadership of Cassandra Buckalew and April Wright, to produce this year's Tour.

It was another huge success, as visitors walked among the homes of the Whitlock Heights Historic District. Cobb Landmarks claimed a new special contribution this year, made possible by the generosity of Sandy and Nancy Edwards, as we opened up our new home – the historic Anderson House on the corner of Whitlock Avenue and Wright Street – as the Tour's Bistro (formerly the Tea Room). Hundreds of visitors with an interest in historic preservation had the opportunity to visit a beautifully maintained historic home and to learn more about Cobb Landmarks from many of our members who volunteered throughout the weekend.

The spirit of successful relationships extends to that which exists between the Marietta Welcome Center's Executive Director Theresa Jenkins and our own Nancy Gadberry. These two talented women lent their valuable guidance to insure that the event was executed cooperatively and with sound financial controls and oversight.

Cobb Landmarks' own Root House Museum and Garden was on beautiful holiday display throughout the weekend, attracting visitors who explored our circa 1845 merchant's home, hosted by our staff and member volunteers.

During the past four years as members, and particularly during the last year as Co-chairs of Cobb Landmarks, we have been blessed with many new friendships. We know that Cobb Landmarks is in very good hands as we pass along our one-year role as chief caretakers.

We want to publicly thank our co-board members; our staff, Nancy, Jenny, and Katie; our sponsors; and our partners in the community for your support and energy over the past 12 months. We know that Cobb Landmarks will continue to make a significant and important contribution to our community in years to come, just as it has for so many years.

*Jennifer and Mark*

***“Where can I buy the book...?”***

Many folks wanting to buy the new CLHS publication *Marietta, the Gem City of Georgia* are asking this question. Here is a handy list of all the current venues, with addresses and hours of operation:

***The Root House Museum and Garden***

at the corner of Polk Street and the Marietta Parkway, Marietta;  
open Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; 770-426-4982

***The Marietta Welcome Center and Visitors Bureau***

4 Depot Street, Marietta;  
open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.,  
Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.; 770-429-1115

***The dk Gallery***

25 West Park Square, Marietta;  
open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday;  
770-427-5377

***The Historic Marietta Trolley Company***

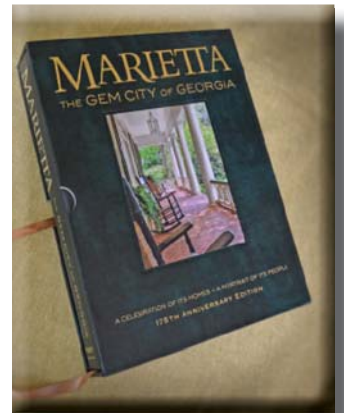
131 Church Street, Marietta;  
open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday noon to 5 p.m.;  
770-425-1006

***Flourish Art and Antiques***

515 Roswell Street, Marietta;  
open Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; 770-795-0640

***Worden’s Picture Framing and Gallery***

824 Kennesaw Avenue, Marietta;  
open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; 770-428-4000



***Membership Email Addresses Needed!***

We need your help in updating our member database. We are confident that we have your mailing address or you wouldn't be reading this newsletter. But, in reviewing the database, we see many member records that do not include an email address. We try to use email to communicate information about CLHS events or news of interest as often as possible, in order to communicate quickly and efficiently and to save the cost of postage.

If you have not been receiving our emails, it means either that we don't have your email address on file or that your computer is sending them to your junk email folder. If you're not getting emails from us, first check your junk folder, then send me a note at [Stewman53@gmail.com](mailto:Stewman53@gmail.com), and I will see to it that your record is updated. Also, when you get your next renewal notice, please fill in your current email address in the appropriate spot, just to be sure. Thanks!

*Stewart Campbell, Membership Chair*

## *Fall “Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner...” Events Were a Great Success*

“Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner...” is a Cobb Landmarks fundraiser that dates back to 1999, when Linda and Bob Flournoy came up with the idea of having Cobb Landmarks members sell tickets for dinners in their own homes and then donate the proceeds to Cobb Landmarks. Over the years, the concept of “Dinner” has expanded quite a bit, but the spirit of hospitality and the underlying commitment to funding historic preservation has remained the same. Several highly successful “Guess Who...” events were held this fall, several of which were described in the October *Landmarker*. Stay tuned for information on more events in this series, scheduled to take place in the winter and spring, including an exciting “soul food” event in Acworth celebrating that community’s African American heritage (more information on that event elsewhere in this issue).

Here’s a recap of fall’s final “Guess Who...” events:

### *Back by popular demand—Beer, Wine and Brushstrokes*

The rain on November 3rd could not dampen the fun of those who attended Beer, Wine and Brushstrokes—a joint fundraiser for CLHS and Marietta/Cobb Museum of Art. Under the expert instruction of local artists Claire Dunaway Cyr and Eduin Rosell, attendees completed their own masterpieces. Many thanks to hosts Linda Flournoy, Kim Gresh, Sally and Hugh Macaulay, Dawn McEachern, Leigh and Steve Pharr, Carson and Jeff Wernz, and Leigh Ann and Ray Worden.



### *Bourbon, Steaks, and Stogies—a night of friends, food, and fun!*

Once again, the Brickyard at Marietta Station was home to a fabulous fundraiser for Cobb Landmarks. On October 27th, 75 Cobb residents enjoyed live music, cigars, a bourbon tasting, and great food, all in the name of raising awareness for the preservation and protection of our community’s historic gems. CLHS gives a round of applause for the event’s Host Committee, which consisted of: Cassandra and Brian Buckalew, Karen and Mike Carter, Teresa and Terry DeWitt, Brittney and Eric Gray, Wendy Bunch and Tom Heyer, Chad Massaker, Elin and Mazi Mazloom, Haley and Robert Meaders, Carey and Jack Merritt, Flay and Al Muellenbach, and Bonnie Reavis. A special thanks to corporate sponsors Bulleit Bourbon, Red Hare Brewing Company, and The Tobacco Store, who provided their wares for the evening.

*Tea at Mockingbird Hill—“A brilliant afternoon”*

Wonderful weather, gracious hostesses, and delicious food combined for a lovely gathering enjoyed by the young and young-at-heart. Four generations of Mariettans gathered for afternoon tea at historic Mockingbird Hill, which was featured on this year’s Pilgrimage. The little girls wore their Sunday best, which included lots of lace, smocking, and beautiful bows. Everyone enjoyed the savory and sweet bites and fabulous flowers provided by Jamie Clayton, Cheryl Glaser, Garrett Hunter, Lindy Jones, Brittany Lowery, Donya Morris, Ann Phillips, Kimberly Pitts, Carole Simpson, and Mockingbird Hill homeowner Nancy Wharton. Special thanks go to Holly Lauer for photographing the event.



## *The Christmas Tree*

by Terri Cole

The idea of decorated Christmas trees began as a German folk custom, and scattered references to decorated Christmas trees have been found as early as 1603. The Christmas tree arrived in England with King George I, a native of Germany. At age 13, his great-great-great-granddaughter Victoria recorded in her diary that she had seen two table-top Christmas trees in her uncle's drawing room. It was not until 1848, when an etching appeared in *The London Illustrated News* showing Queen Victoria's family gathered around their Christmas tree, that the custom came into fashion. Two years later the etching was reproduced in America in *Godey's Lady's Book*.

On December 20, 1855, *The Columbus Inquirer* advertised Christmas trees for sale. It is not clear whether Christmas trees were brought to the Southern plantations from the forest before they were being marketed, or whether this commercial sale of trees introduced them to Southern society.

*The American Christmas*, written by James Barnett in 1954, reports that early trees were decorated with animal cookies, apples, strings of popcorn, brightly colored paper chains, and a gold star. Trees adorned with lighted candles, glass ornaments, icicles, and heavy balls were not popular until the late 1890s. "A Christmas Tree," written in 1855 by Charles Dickens, describes a tree with decorations of rosy-cheeked dolls; real watches with moveable hands; jolly, broad-faced little men filled with sugar plums; fiddles, drums, tambourines, books, work-boxes, paint-boxes, sweetmeat boxes, peep show boxes, trinkets for elder girls, baskets, pincushions, guns, swords, banners, teetotums, humming-tops, needle-cases, pen-wipers, smelling bottles, conversation cards, bouquet holders; real fruit made artificially dazzling with gold leaf; imitation apples and pears, and walnuts crammed with surprises.

President Franklin Pierce (1853-1857) arranged to have the first Christmas tree in the White House in the mid 1850s. President Calvin Coolidge (1923-1929) started the National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on the White House lawn in 1923.

According to local tradition, the first Christmas tree in Marietta was in the home of the Agricola family, who lived on Church Street diagonally across the street from the William Root family. The Agricolas were from Germany and came to Marietta around 1850. They operated a bakery beside their home for over 50 years.

At the Root House, we use primary source documents (poems, books, and etchings) as resources for decorating our table-top tree. Our tree is a native red cedar adorned with simple handmade ornaments of gilded walnuts, wallpaper cut-outs, gingerbread men, tiny baskets filled with treats, miniature candleholders, and gold stars. It is a delight for the eyes, warmth for the soul, and a heart-touching reminder of Christmases past!

[Editor's note: This article first appeared in the December 2008 *Landmarker*. The Root House Christmas tree was enjoyed by hundreds of visitors during the Marietta Pilgrimage this year. Record numbers of visitors were recorded on the Saturday of the Tour. Marcelle David, Root House Chair, says, regarding the Pilgrimage: *The Root House Staff, committee and volunteers decorated the house and prepared for the Marietta Pilgrimage and ... they all did an outstanding job of showcasing the Root House Museum and Gardens with tours and cooking demonstrations!! They make us proud of this great gift that we share with our community. Many, many thanks to all the individuals who made this possible!!!*]

*Scenes from a Root House Christmas*



## *Looking Back*

### The Preservation of the Root House: Part Three

by Jim Corley

Four years after the house was moved to its third location, the Root House Update in the February 1994 *Landmarker*, covered progress on construction, pleas and thanks for contributions, and goals. Here are a few excerpts:

*Thanks to all those members and other friends of the William Root House who responded to the Christmas letter asking for contributions to keep the restoration moving along. Responses were very generous, and the exterior of the house is complete, except for a back entrance with handicapped access. The house looks great in its original creamy-white with near-black shutters. (The shutters are replicas made and donated by Cobblestone Mill Woodworks.)*

*The carpentry inside is virtually complete and work has begun on mechanical systems....Thanks to the professional expertise of member Maryellen Higginbotham, we know the early finishes to which the interior will be taken back.*

*While completion of work on the house and the foundations for the landscape is in sight, the place cannot be interpreted properly without furnishings; without shrubs, flower, herb, and vegetable plantings; and without outbuildings---especially a detached kitchen. [Note the urgency of that last need.]*



*Maryellen Higginbotham researching finishes*

*All this will take money, and the sooner funds can be raised, the less the total expenses.*

Much of the August 1994 issue of *The Landmarker* was devoted to stories about funding for the Root House. The first announced a grant that would make possible the accomplishment of one of the goals emphasized in the previous issue:

*The Root House has been chosen as the recipient of a \$25,000 grant from the State Department of Community Affairs. The grant is the result of State Representative John Hammond's tireless efforts on our behalf....The Board of Directors has voted to use the money to landscape the grounds in preparation for planting. [The proposed site plan appeared on another page.]*

Another article was headed *First 20/20/20 Dinner Party* raises \$1,740 for the Root House. It thanked Steve and Terri Cole for hosting a low country boil to which they invited friends and neighbors to "join the fun and to bring a donation for the Root House." The Coles handed out information about the Root House and Cobb Landmarks and had the video of Root House carpentry work available for viewing.

Especially significant for its indication of the breadth of community interest in the project is a two page "listing of all the dedicated individuals, companies and governmental bodies that have helped bring the Root House to its current condition." The list of contributors includes the categories of Founders, whose contributions amounted to \$5,000 or more; Donors, who gave \$550+; Supporters, \$100+; Friends, \$1-99; the Root House Contractor; and, of course, William E. Bullard, who donated the house itself. There are 304 listings, more than half of which represent couples, so the number of individuals who had contributed was much higher.

A front page update in the next issue of *The Landmarker* (November 1994) reported:

*Work on the Root House unfortunately was held up during the summer due to questions about terms of the lease from the City of Marietta. This matter has been resolved, and work should proceed rapidly between now and the first of the year. Targets for completion by early 1995 include installation of utilities and security systems, back*

*entrance, preparation of walls and floors for their return to historic finishes, and grading and landscaping of grounds. This will enable us to open the house for limited visitation.*

*The full potential of the Root House as a museum will be realized only when a detached kitchen is built, the yard is planted, and the interior is finished and at least partially furnished.*

March 1995 marked five years of the Root House at its new location. Although the Root House Update in the March *Landmarker* did not mention the significant anniversary, it reported a lot of progress: electrical wiring and heating and air conditioning had been installed, plumbing was near completion, and coming up that month were "completion of grading; a back porch to provide handicapped access by means of lift; a thorough interior cleanup; and some basic landscaping." And then,

*The biggest news: The Root House will be open in April on a regular schedule for Landmarks members and other visitors who want to observe progress on interior finishes and furnishings. And, the office of Cobb Landmarks will be moving into temporary quarters in the Root House, since the City of Marietta, our Landlord at the Clarke Library, has other purposes for that historic structure.*

*Our Executive Director will occupy one of the upstairs rooms at the Root House, and our faithful volunteers look forward to serving as docents (that is, as volunteers and explainers) from a post in the lean-to room downstairs. This is an exciting time for new volunteers to come on board! Please call Executive Director Libby Bell, 426-4982, about opportunities to help in the office. We also need to hear from members willing to help in other ways....*

The Winter/Spring 1996 *Landmarker* described Landmarks' planned involvement in two special events: (1) The "Marietta Historic Home Tour '96" was a cooperative effort of CLHS and the Marietta Welcome Center to bring Olympic visitors to Marietta. Tours were offered on six days, each tour featuring three historic homes and four public buildings, including the Root House. (2) Cobb Landmarks would host the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation for its Annual Meeting in April 1997, with 400-500 individuals from across the state expected to attend. That the Root House was now ready to be shown off to important visitors from outside our own community was an indication of real progress on its restoration. A more important goal, tours for local school groups, was still a little way off, but another development assured that they might soon be a reality.

From the Winter/Spring 1996 issue of *The Landmarker*:

*It is with great pleasure that Cobb Landmarks and Historical Society, Inc., announces the award of a \$25,000 grant from the Marietta Development Authority for the construction of the detached kitchen at the Root House. Work is scheduled to begin this summer. Research is currently being conducted by Tommy Jones, preservation consultant, on the design and furnishings for the structure. This structure will greatly enhance our ability to accurately interpret the Root House and its grounds. We look forward to developing educational programs for the completed kitchen to add to the visitors' understanding of life in the 1850s. We are extremely fortunate to have so much support from our citizens, community organizations and businesses, and the local government. Thank you all!!*

So far, this series about the preservation of the Root House has looked mostly at the exterior and structural matters, but the authenticity of its decoration was not being neglected. The Summer 1996 issue of *The Landmarker* contained a thorough and scholarly but very interesting article by Maryellen Higginbotham entitled "Paint, Paper, and Patterns: the William Root House," based largely on her researches into the changing interior finishes of the house from its construction until its donation to CLHS. The entire article cannot easily be summarized using short extracts, but it begins:

*Imagine a jigsaw puzzle with the pieces being fragments of paint, paper, and patterns and you have a picture of the interior of the William Root House before restoration. Now imagine analyzing each fragment; researching popular decorative theories of the 1840s and 1850s; researching materials and patterns available...[at that time]; analyzing*

*and sifting through all this material; and you begin to have a picture of the interior decoration of the William Root house as it may have looked in the 1850s.*

*The research of the decorative finishes in the William Root House began with a visual inspection, photographs, measured drawings, and paint/paper analysis of each wall in each room. Over 130 paint samples were collected and examined under magnification. A chromochronology (paint history) was developed for each architectural element in each room. Grained finishes...were found on the doors, mantels, and second floor baseboards (first floor base boards were missing). Architectural evidence demonstrates that wallpaper/wallcovering was continuously used in the first floor north and south rooms....Paint, paper, and patterns discovered show that during the occupancy of the Root Family the first floor rooms were always finished in a colorful and stylish manner reflecting the popular decorative practices of the times. The upstairs rooms were not painted until the time of the fifth painting of the first floor.*

Concluding paragraphs explain that, from all the finishes discovered, those chosen for the restoration are not necessarily the earliest, but they represent the house as it probably was in the 1850s, a time when the Roots had settled into and left their mark on their home.

Maryellen Higginbotham, the author of the article, held baccalaureate degrees in both Interior Design and Preservation and a Master of Science degree in Interior Design with a preservation focus. She became a volunteer on the Root House restoration project in 1993. When the article was written she was serving as Paint and Wallpaper Consultant for the Root House. She became its Curator in 1997 and served in that capacity until she retired in 2011. The editors appended to the 1996 article a note recognizing that she "serves on the Furniture and Acquisitions Committee and gives us a tremendous amount of her time doing additional research, giving lectures to students and teacher workshop participants and providing us with invaluable expertise along the way as we work to restore the William Root House."



*Newly installed wallpaper for the parlor*

The Fall 1996 and Spring 1997 *Landmarkers* convey some of the enthusiasm in CLHS as the Root House prepared to open to the public.

It was at last open for most of the week and able to offer tours to large school groups. A full page announcement in the fall issue cautiously stated that the house would be open Tuesday to Saturday, "as early as early in 1997 as possible." It included a call for volunteer docents who would serve regular half-day shifts once a week, welcoming visitors and giving them tours. The announcement continued:

*Cobb Landmarks is currently contacting the local school systems in an effort to line up fieldtrips for this spring and the 1997/1998 school year. We have already scheduled two schools for this Spring. When we have a full schedule of fieldtrips we will expand the docent training program to include how to give a tour to school children. We envision giving you, the docent, all the facts, letting you watch the tour being given by several individuals, and then letting you develop your segment of the tour by using what you feel is most interesting. This gives each tour a personal touch and allows the docent's enthusiasm for the subject to come through.*



*The piers for the detached kitchen house being inspected*

Several items in the Spring 1997 issue report on the outcome of those plans. One began:

*It is with great excitement that the Board of Directors can announce that since February 1, 1997, the Root House Museum has been open for visitors every Tuesday-Saturday, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Initially, the goal was to have these hours in place by September 1997; however, along came one of our new board members, Alayne Gilreath, who had agreed to organize a volunteer program for the Root House. Within two months she had scheduled volunteers for all of the Museum's open hours and organized a docent training session. Thanks to Alayne's hard work the Root House now can boast extended hours which match that of other local museums.*

A new feature in *The Landmarker*, the Volunteer Page, listed 41 Root House volunteers.

In the Spring 1997 report from the Chairman, Marcelle David reported, "...we continue the development of the Root House Museum....The construction of the kitchen is almost complete, and other phases of development are meeting anticipated goals. Last year our education programs provided for eleven school groups, and we are already seeing an increase for this school year." It is hard for those familiar with the tours now offered to imagine how life in the 1850s could be demonstrated at the Root House without our authentically reconstructed detached kitchen. The growth of school tours was dependent on its completion. The caption of a story in the Summer 1997 issue declared "Cobb Landmarks Hosts over 500 Students on Field Trips," and one of its illustrations showed Alayne Gilreath with a group of children outside the new kitchen.



*Libby Bell touring an early school group*

It was my intention to conclude this series of Looking Back columns about the early years of the Root House restoration at the time when the structure was safely conserved and restored and ready to serve the educational mission of Cobb Landmarks. This point seems to have been reached in 1997, seven years after the house was removed, although two more structures remained to be completed, a well and a privy.

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Little has been said in this series about the development of the Root House yard and garden. This omission was intentional, because in August 2009 *The Landmarker* published an excellent account by Marcelle David of the early development of the grounds, which may be the basis for a future Looking Back. Also, we have said very little about the objects, utilitarian and decorative, which the Roots might have used in their daily lives, although obviously they are as essential for the interpretation of life in the 1850s as the setting in which they were used—perhaps even more important. The acquisition of such articles is beyond the scope of this series, but most issues of *The Landmarker* have contained fascinating descriptions, by Terri Cole and others, of articles in the museum's collection, their use, and how they were acquired. (Readers who would like to see back issues of *The Landmarker* may call Jenny Goldemund or Katie Odom at the Root House, 770-425-4982, and arrange to see them.)

## ***The Civil War Comes to Cobb: OCCUPIED!***

*by Marion Blackwell, Jr.*

Marietta citizens heard the roar of battle from Kennesaw Mountain and suffered an occasional wild round from cannon and rifle. Trains and wagon trains came and went at a furious pace, delivering supplies and ammunition and replacements for the Confederate army, then returning southward with wounded soldiers and fleeing civilians. Daily necessities were in very short supply. The Federal army controlled everything north of Marietta, and the W & A Railroad line to Atlanta was being operated as a military railroad by the Confederate army.

On July 2, 1864, the citizens witnessed the inevitable: a rapid withdrawal of Confederate forces by every means possible--by train, wagon, and horse, and on foot, as the army withdrew from Kennesaw Mountain, through Marietta, to prepare its next line of defense in Smyrna. Immediately behind the retreating Confederates, the few remaining citizens watched with dismay as the city changed from gray to blue when Federal forces swarmed in.

The United States Army immediately imposed martial law. Cobb County and City of Marietta laws were suspended, and civilians and soldiers alike were placed under military rule. At the will of the military commanders, homes, churches, and commercial buildings were commandeered for the use of the U. S. Army. Churches suffered much damage as they were converted to hospitals. Organs and pianos were destroyed, and pews and hymnals were thrown out into the streets, or used for fire wood.

At the time of capture, Marietta had sixteen stores, two pharmacists, eight groceries, three hotels, four churches, and several schools. A New York Tribune correspondent, traveling with the Federal army, reported that "the town is a perfect grotto of shade," so at least some things never change. Numerous fine homes were noted, including the home of William Root, now preserved by the Cobb Landmarks and Historical Society. It was described by the Tribune reporter as one of Marietta's "best estates." The reporter also estimated that not more than twenty homes were occupied by citizens, the owners of the others having fled to more safe locations... like Atlanta. A later estimate reduced the number to twelve families.

The now-empty Georgia Military Institute was put to good use by the Federals. It had been vacated by the GMI cadets, who were shipped out to other battlefields months earlier. The school site and buildings were used as headquarters for General George H. Thomas ("The Rock of Chickamauga") and as barracks and hospitals for Federal troops. Female textile mill workers from Roswell and Factory Shoals were held prisoners here until they were shipped "north of the Ohio," as Sherman ordered. Brumby Hall, the fine home of Arnoldus V. Brumby adjacent to the Institute, was spared from abuse and destruction when the rest of the campus was burned as the Federal troops left Marietta. A theory is that this leniency was due to the fact that Mr. Brumby and Gen. Sherman were classmates at West Point.

This occupation of Marietta continued from July until the Federal army began its infamous "March to the Sea" in November, and did not resume until the war ended and "reconstruction" began.

Next: Action in and around Smyrna, as the Federal forces pressed southward.

Sources: *The First Hundred Years*, by Sarah Blackwell Gober Temple; *Marietta 1833-2000* by James Bolan Glover V, Joe McTyre, and Rebecca Nash Paden; *History of the Georgia Military Institute* by Bowling C. Yates; *Journal of a Landlady* by Louisa Warren Fletcher; *Atlanta and Environs*, by Franklin Garrett.

*Marion Blackwell lives in Vinings and has recently published Blue Locusts, a collection of his work. This article is the fourth in a series documenting the Civil War in Cobb County written for The Landmarker during the Civil War Sesquicentennial.*

## *Celebrate Black History with a Unique Guess.... Event*

### *Southern Fried Soul*

*Join us for a evening at historic venues,  
served up with soul food dinner  
of fried chicken and okra,  
sauteed with a bit of gospel,  
stirring in the songs of our ancestors,  
and topped with a special art exhibit.*

*A unique dinner with a special menu,  
served in downtown Acworth's historic  
Rosenwald School and Bethel AME Church.*

*Saturday, February 4th, 2012  
beginning at 6:30 in the evening  
at Acworth's Gallery 4463*



*a celebration of Cobb's  
African American heritage*

*The evening begins at 6:30 with a wine  
reception at downtown Acworth's Gallery  
4463 on Cherokee Street where local artists  
unveil a special exhibit for the occasion  
that will include original work by Ernest  
Varner focusing on the Rosenwald School.*

*The evening's entertainment continues at  
Bethel AME Church, a National Register  
listed property, whose congregation dates to  
Emancipation. At Bethel you will meet  
Michelle Boykin for a dramatic presenta-  
tion where the community's African Amer-  
ican heritage is brought to life in song and  
drama.*

*A full soul food dinner will follow at the  
circa 1927 Rosenwald School, a successful  
rehabilitation project spearheaded by Cobb  
Landmarks, in partnership with the City  
of Acworth and the National Trust for His-  
toric Preservation.*

*Seating is limited  
so gather 8 of your friends  
and reserve your table with  
abbie.parks@gmail.com or 770-975-1930*

*All proceeds benefit 501(c)(3) non-profit  
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**We have a new sign and banner!!!**

They are great and thanks go to Jenny, Katie, Nancy and the Executive Committee for getting the job done!! They were installed before the Marietta Pilgrimage.

***The Landmarker Editors  
Cathy Brown, Jim Corley, and Abbie Parks***

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