



# THE LANDMARKER

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Marietta, Georgia

## *A Great Day for Hyde Farm*

*by Cathy Brown*

“We bought the farm!” declared Helen Tapp, Georgia State Director of the Trust for Public Land, on June 6, as local dignitaries and friends of historic preservation gathered at Hyde Farm in East Cobb County to celebrate the announcement that the historic property, one of the last true working farms in the Atlanta area, has been purchased by the TPL. This purchase marks the culmination of a 19-year effort to preserve Hyde Farm, still almost unchanged from the early 1900s, and to ensure that it is kept intact as a resource for preservation, education, and conservation.

Friends and supporters (including Cobb Landmarks Co-Chair Skip King, Co-Vice Chair Cathy Brown, and Executive Director Daryl Barksdale), sat under a tent and tried to stay cool while listening eagerly as Ms. Tapp talked about the history of the effort to save Hyde Farm and of its importance to future generations. She stated that the story of Hyde Farm is a story of “partnerships, energy, and possibilities.” Pointing to the beautiful bucolic vista all around, she noted that the actions taken by the Friends of Hyde Farm, TPL, Cobb County, the National Park Service, and many others have ensured that “this place will look like this 5, 10, 50, and 100 years from now.”

This story of “stewardship, passion, and partnerships” began with a friendship between the Power and Hyde families in 1874. It continued with JC and Buck Hyde, brothers who inherited the farm from their parents, who had bought it in the 1920s from the Power family. The Hyde brothers grew up on the farm and continued to work it using a hand plow pulled by a mule, even as suburban sprawl grew around it. In the 1990s, after the death of his brother, JC and the TPL began working together to ensure that the farm would be protected as



*Cobb Landmarkers Cathy Brown, Daryl Barksdale, and Skip King join Dan Brown, Superintendent of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area of the National Park Service, and Sam Olens, Chair of the Cobb County Commission.*

it existed. TPL bought 40 acres along the Chattahoochee in 1992 in a deal that ensured that JC could farm that land for the duration of his life and that at his death the TPL would have a contractual right of first offer. The recent purchase of the land by the TPL represents the clearing of the way in U.S. District Court, which upheld the agreement, and the raising of money by groups ranging from “children selling sweet potatoes” to large corporate sponsors.

*(continued on page 3)*

***Preservation Priorities Spotlight:  
The Power-Jackson Cabin***

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The Power-Jackson Cabin, c.1830s, is an outstanding example of a single pen, hewn log home. Now exceedingly rare, but once common, structures like this served as homesteads for early Cobb County settlers in what was then the rural, agrarian area that is known today as East Cobb. This cabin in particular is remarkably intact. Although a framed addition was added later, the original hand-hewn, squared-and-notched construction is still visible.

Martha Jane Power (1828-1924) acquired the property shortly after her marriage in the late 1840s to Jephtha C. Jackson (1828-1888). Martha Jane's brothers were James (1814-1901), John (1816-1862), William (1819-1885), George Abner (1821-1914), and Pinkney (1830-1914), all members of the Power family, who farmed in Cobb throughout most of the 1800s and into the early 1900s.

In the 1930s her home was described by Sarah Temple in *The First Hundred Years* (Atlanta: Walter W. Brown Publishing Company, 1935, p.

818) as "one of the most picturesque in the county; the house, unoccupied and falling into disrepair, is built of heavy



logs, with two stone chimneys. On either side of the front porch, now fallen away, are two very large crepe myrtles; the front yard is carpeted with vinca; one of the two tall oak trees in front is covered with English ivy. In the back a gnarled apple tree stands in one corner of the house and at the other one of the largest Virginia cedars in the county, while small cedars have sprung up all about the place. Cleared fields stretch away to one side; on the other, the pine woods, so thick across the road in front, grow up almost to the house."

The Power-Jackson Cabin is located on Post Oak Tritt Road. CLHS has recently corresponded with the property owner to communicate interest in its preservation. Although the owner currently has no expressed plan, CLHS is monitoring the property.

## *Hyde Farm (continued from front page)*

Ms. Tapp emphasized that Hyde Farm will continue to be a working farm, as well as “a place for rest, recreation, and fresh air,” and that it will retain the name “Hyde Farm.” It will provide “green space in the midst of growth, a glimpse of our cultural heritage, a valuable education in agricultural methods, a lesson in environmental stewardship, a place for passive recreation and contemplation, and the preservation of a natural habitat,” among many other benefits.

George Hart, speaking for the Friends of Hyde Farm, told the story of the grassroots organization. “We are excited for everyone in Georgia, but especially thrilled for those in Cobb County, who will have the unique opportunity to see and experience life in an 1800s homestead.”

Sam Olens, Chair of the Cobb County Commission, and Dan Brown, Superintendent of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area of the National Park Service, spoke as representatives of the two entities to whom the property will be conveyed by TPL under a joint and cooperative management plan. Mr. Olens emphasized the importance of the property to Cobb County’s long-term land use program and its value as a recreational and educational resource. He thanked Commissioner Joe Thompson and County Manager David Hankerson, who were also present, and Sen. Johnny Isakson and Rep. Tom Price for their support. Mr. Brown spoke of the cooperative nature of the partnership between NPS and Cobb County and of their indebtedness to the vision of JC Hyde.

Morning Washburn, who lives in CLHS’s own Power Cabin adjacent to Hyde Farm, was recognized for many years of friendship and work with the Hyde family, for her current efforts to help maintain the farm, and for her initiative and support of the movement to protect the farm. She was given a standing ovation.

Also in attendance, and apparently taking the heat in stride, was Pot Pie the mule, standing in for JC’s snow-retired Nell, whose picture was on the t-shirts (which also bore the logo, “We Bought the



Farm”) given to everyone present. Nell was also featured prominently in a poster, created by local school children, which declared “More Houses are Bad...Hyde Farm is Rad!” As Helen Tapp said, the children are happy that “Hyde Farm will remain a place where Nell the mule can be comfortable for a long, long time.”

## ***A Lesson in History: The Power Family of Cobb County, Georgia***

*by Cathy Brown, Abbie Parks, and Morning Washburn*

The history of Cobb County is a pioneer history, the story of men and women who came from faraway places (Europe, the eastern seaboard of the United States, nearby southern states) to make their homes in the wilderness destined to become Cobb County, Georgia. It is also the story of men and women, the Native Americans, who were forced from their homes here. Joseph and Isabella Power and their descendents, who settled in the former Cherokee Indian land which is now East Cobb, are one family who left their mark on Cobb County. The properties of the Power family, of which three unique examples remain, provide a significant historical legacy in that they are among the last remaining examples of pioneer life at the time of the creation of Cobb County.

The farmhouse at Hyde Farm, prominent in the news recently (see the front page article for more about the saving of Hyde Farm) and the adjacent Power Cabin, a property owned and protected by Cobb Landmarks and Historical Society, evoke a pair of homesteads located on farms nestled along the Chattahoochee in the 1840s. Two Power brothers owned and farmed these properties throughout the last half of the 19th century and into the early 20th century. The Power-Jackson Cabin, one of CLHS's Preservation Priorities, is located further north and west in Cobb County. Perhaps built in the 1830s, it was the home of one of the Power daughters from the late 1840s until 1924. (See the Preservation Spotlight on p. 2 for more information on the Power-Jackson Cabin.)

As recent events make Cobb's Power family history even more relevant, the editors felt it timely to highlight the family behind these historic homesteads, two of which have reached preservation milestones, the other still in need of a preservation plan.

The story of the Powers in Cobb County begins with John Power, who was born in Ireland in 1740. John emigrated, perhaps by way of Pennsylvania, to South Carolina, where he settled in Laurens with wife Sarah, and where they lived, farmed, raised their family, and are buried. By the mid-1820s, at least two of their sons, James and Joseph, and their families had moved to Georgia, to land in the Chattahoochee River corridor in what was then DeKalb County, now Fulton County. James was the first documented Power to arrive in Cobb. Around 1832, he established one of the first ferries across the Chattahoochee River, located just south of what is now called Cochran Shoals. Joseph established a smaller ferry located just north of the shoals that later became the site of the Morgan Falls Dam. Both of these ferries were noted on Union maps of the area and were located between the already established major river crossings of Shallow Ford near Roswell and Pace's Ferry at Vinings. Joseph held title to hundreds of acres of farmland which bordered the river from just north of Johnson Ferry to the shoals upstream that in the late 1890s became the construction site of Morgan Falls Dam. Joseph Power's name does not appear in a special census of white settlers in the new Cherokee counties taken in 1834, so it is probable that he and his wife, Isabella, maintained their DeKalb County residence until after that year while starting to farm the rich floodplain on the western side of the river. At that time, white settlers, flaunting Federal and Cherokee law, frequently claimed and began farming Cherokee lands as their own. Both historical evidence and family tradition suggest that the Powers were among those who chose to settle on Cherokee land. Joseph and Isabella had at least eight children who grew up on the family farm. From around the late 1830s until the 1870s, Joseph passed land on to several of his children, four of whom built log cabins along what is now called Hyde Road.

The oldest of Joseph and Isabella Power's sons, James Cooper Power (1814-1901), and his wife Rosa Dodds settled on land southwest of his parents' home in the 1840s. James and Rosa lived on this land in the log house that they built throughout most of the rest of the 19th century, farming and raising their six children. This property remained in the Power family until a foreclosure around 1917 and was subsequently bought by Jesse and Lela Hyde in 1920. The Hydys added two rooms to James and Rosa's cabin in the mid-1920s, and with their six children they continued to farm and live in the the same tradition of self-sufficiency. Their two sons, Buck and JC, inherited the farm from their parents, and they lived in the family homeplace, drawing water from the hand-dug well and farming the land using their mule-drawn, time-tested techniques, throughout the 20th century, to the ends of their lives. When JC died in 2004 (Buck having preceded him in death in 1987), he had set in place the opportunity to preserve the farm and its homestead for future generations.

James's younger brother, George Abner Power, was born in Georgia, in Clarke or Madison County, in 1821, and he married Winifred Copeland in 1843. At the time of their marriage, George established a farm which stretched more than a mile along the northwest bank of the Chattahoochee River, adjacent to James's farm. George and Winifred lived in the log house, now commonly referred to as the Power Cabin, most of the rest of their lives, raising their 12 children there. George and Winifred made few changes to the house after the Civil War. The kitchen was repaired or rebuilt around that time, and a well was dug soon after. Electricity was installed in 1950, and new windows and doors were added in the 1960's by the tenant. Other than these adaptations, the house remains largely unchanged to the present time. The house was not occupied by the Power family after World War I, but their descendants continued to own the property until 1996, when it was conveyed to the Trust for Public Land (TPL) by Virginia Wing Power, widow of George W. Power (grandson of George Abner Power). In 1999, TPL donated it, along with 2 ½ acres of land, to Cobb Landmarks. Morning Washburn, who maintains a tenancy agreement with Cobb Landmarks, has lived in the cabin since 1971, when she answered an ad by the Power family in the *Sandy Springs Neighbor* for rental of a "log cabin on 80 acres." Her residence on and stewardship of the old Power family homestead enabled its preservation as a natural sanctuary, a place for educational activities, and a snapshot of an old rural "home place" at a time when Cobb County's rural agricultural and architectural heritage was quickly being lost.



*George Abner Power with his fiddle  
c.1900 at the Pwer Cabin*

Martha Jane Power (1828-1924), daughter of Isabella and Joseph and sister of James and George, married into a neighboring family and settled nearby, as did most of her sisters. Mary Power and her husband Joseph Martin, and Kiziah Power and her husband William Bishop, established homes in the east Cobb area, but their homes do not survive. Martha and her husband Jephtha Jackson moved further north into Cobb County, settling near Sandy Plains and Shallowford Roads. The log home that they moved into was already built at the time of their marriage. Martha Jackson, known to locals as "Aunt Marthy," farmed the land with her husband, and she continued to do so after her husband's death in 1888, until her death at age 96 in 1924. When her estate was settled in 1926, her farm of approximately 105 acres was sold for \$1800. Like the Hyde Farm farmhouse and the Power Cabin, the Power-Jackson Cabin is largely unchanged, and also like them it represents an important piece of Power family history and Cobb County history. Unlike them, its future as an educational and historic resource is not yet secured.

The history of the Power family is perhaps typical of the histories of many of the families who were pioneers in the settlement of Cobb County as it was being founded; however, the Power family's legacy is unique in that it is still visible in actual structures and places which are largely unchanged from that earlier time. These important places are reminders of our need to protect our historic resources so that future generations can learn about our rural pioneer heritage and better understand and experience the sense of place of Cobb County, Georgia.

The factual material for this article is taken from :

*George and Winifred Power House Historic Structure Report*, prepared for Cobb Landmarks and Historical Society by Tommy Hart Jones, Spring 1999,

-and-

*The First Hundred Years: A Short History of Cobb County, in Georgia*, by Sarah Blackwell Gober Temple (Atlanta: Walter W. Brown Publishing Company, 1935). This volume, reprinted by CLHS, is available at the Root House Museum Store.

## *CLHS Spring Garden Party a Huge Success*

*by Linda Flournoy*

Cobb Landmarks and Historical Society offered its annual Spring Garden Party on May 2, 2008 at the beautiful home of Terri and Steve Cole on Greymont Circle. What a glorious evening, with perfect weather and the most charming setting one could conceive! The food was perfect, with a full buffet offered up with glamorous flower arrangements and beautiful table settings.

Melissa Gilbert and Laurie Edwards chaired this event and left nothing to chance in every detail. The event was sold out and left others begging to come. Sponsors were: Owens Flowers, Haynie and Litchfield law firm, Terri and Steve Cole, First Landmark Bank, Linda Flournoy, and one anonymous donor.

Cobb Landmarks would like to take the opportunity to thank the Master Gardeners and all our donors. The Plant Sale on Friday and Saturday was an outstanding success, thanks to their Chairman, Sue Burgess, and to the Master Gardeners, who so masterfully maintain the Root House Gardens year around.

We all look forward to next year's Spring Garden Party and hope that even more CLHS members will be able to attend.



*In springtime finery, Linda Flournoy (left) and Kathy Norris enjoy the festive evening.*



*Morning Washburn chats with Ray Worden while enjoying the Coles' garden.*



*Steve Waldrip (left), Valentina Simeone, and Skip Harper join Garden Party Co-Chair Melissa Gilbert.*

*Spring Garden Party - 2008*



*Pictured are party-goers  
Gregg Litchfield and Bill David.  
Gregg is with Haynie, Litchfield and Crane, P. C.,  
sponsors for the event.*



*Perk Lawrence (left), a longtime CLHS sponsor,  
with Joe Chastain, Mary Hancock, and Victoria Chastain (right).*



*Elaine and Greg Lucas, CLHS Sponsors,  
enjoy the evening with Shannon Bohannon.*



*Frank and Susan Moore visit with Chuck and Patricia George.*



*Pictured to the right are Rose Wing,  
Dan and Susan Papp, and Mark and Barrye Kirk.*

***Root House Curator Maryellen Higginbotham  
Speaks to Regional Conference at Mimosa Hall***

*by Cathy Brown and Maryellen Higginbotham*

On Monday, May 19, Root House Curator Maryellen Higginbotham spoke to a large group of preservation educators and curators at Mimosa Hall in Roswell. Bulloch Hall, Barrington Hall, and the Archibald Smith Plantation, three house museums operated by the city of Roswell, sponsored the event, a regional conference bringing together professionals from the north Georgia area to Columbus to Augusta.

Maryellen was one of three invited speakers. She spoke on the subject of working with young volunteers, using as her focus the Junior Docents program at the Root House. With the aid of a PowerPoint program, she covered the history of the Junior Docent program and highlighted many of the young docents' current activities.

The Root House Junior Docents program was begun in 1988 with four volunteers; currently, there are 17 volunteers, ranging in age from 10 to 16. They aim to learn about and to experience the lives and the activities of young people of the 1850s and to share these with Root House visitors. They give tours of the Root House



Museum, in full 1850s costume. They also have developed a calisthenics program, which they take “on the road.” (For a more in-depth explanation of the calisthenics program, see *The Landmarker*, October 2006.)

The Root House Junior Docent program is an excellent example of the successful incorporation of young people into the life of an organization whose lifeblood is its volunteers. Developing and nurturing in our young people the habit and spirit of volunteering to the community is another goal of this successful program. Maryellen was proud to be able to share their accomplishments with preservationists from around the state.

Pictured above are Root House Junior Docents. On the first row is Kylie Guckian; on the second row are Kristen Guckian, Elizabeth Osman, and Amber Kuettel; on the third row are Courtney Benson, Alex Lucas, and Tabitha Hensley; on the back row are Frances Doyle, Haley Granger, Nathaniel Condra, Sarah Moon, Morgan Fox, Elizabeth Fox, and Macy Osman. Docents not pictured are Megan Carter, Missy DeVelvis, Olivia Granger, and Lauren Parrott.

## ***Guess Who's Coming to Dinner...in 2008***

*by Jeanine Harper*

*Can you believe it's already time to start thinking about Who's Coming to Dinner in 2008-2009?*

One of CLHS's most popular events, Guess Who's Coming to Dinner..., is expanding next year. For the past several years, GWCTD has offered CLHS members the opportunity to meet new friends, get together with old friends, and have a great meal in a variety of homes and unique settings. This coming year, we are changing our approach; instead of being just a September and October event, Guess Who's Coming to Dinner... will take place throughout the year, from October through May, with one to two parties per month. This new format will enable many more opportunities for hosts and party-goers alike.

*What can you do to help?*

Host a party! Attend a party!

*Can't do it by yourself?*

Host with a friend! Host with several friends! Many of our most successful events have been collaborative efforts.

*Have a great idea you've always wanted to try out?*

The possibilities are endless! Successful parties have included golf outings, boating parties, dinner on the veranda, and tailgating, as well as traditional dinners in the homes of our members.

*Nervous about hosting strangers?*

Host your friends! Host a dinner for your book club, bridge group, or fellow hobbyists. Big parties or small—all can be successful and fun.

*Want to help but stuck for an idea?*

Call Jeanine Harper at 770-427-4222. She has lots of great ideas and would love to brainstorm with you or answer any questions.

### ***Cobb County Recognizes Trail of Tears Anniversary***

On May 27, the Cobb County Board of Commissioners issued a proclamation recognizing 2008 as the 170<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Trail of Tears. Three years after the Treaty of New Echota in 1835, the United States government removed all Native Americans in the Southeast to land west of the Mississippi River. A payment of \$5 million was made to the tribes in exchange for their lands.

Dr. Myra Reidy accepted the proclamation on behalf of the Georgia Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association, a group that is working to preserve historic sites associated with the Trail, including 14 forts that were built in Georgia as gathering places for the Native Americans before their ordeal. Although many Cherokee people were removed from what is now Cobb County, none of the military sites are in Cobb. Dr. Reidy spoke briefly about the importance of preserving the heritage of this event, even though it is not one on which many people look with pride.

Chris Brown, Co-Vice Chair of Cobb Landmarks, represented CLHS at the Commission meeting. More information on the Trail of Tears Association is available at their website: [www.gatrailoftears.org](http://www.gatrailoftears.org).

## *Women's Head Coverings in the 1850s*

### *Part III: Summer Hats*

by Veronica Jones Carey

[This article is the third in a series of three. See the February and April 2008 issues of *The Landmarker* for parts I and II: an overview of women's 1850s head coverings and a discussion of winter hats.]

Mrs. Root and her friends in the 1850s would have had a choice of three types of summer headgear when going outside: a lightweight straw bonnet, a wide-brimmed straw hat, or a cloth sunbonnet that most likely would have been quite utilitarian.

Pictured to the right is Root House Docent Pam Cole, wearing a lovely straw cottage bonnet of the style prevalent in the early and mid-1850s, which she trimmed and decorated. Pam has been a major contributor to the Root House costume program, and she brings a wealth of costuming knowledge to her task.



Such a straw cottage bonnet was depicted innumerable times in the spring and summer fashion magazines of the 1850s. For instance, in the September 1850 issue of *Godey's Lady's Book*,

fashion illustrations depict and describe a straw cottage bonnet for a young woman, with simple lace and ribbon trim. In the April 1855 issue, an "English straw bonnet" of similar shape, but with more elaborate trimming of lace, flowers, and ribbon bows, is depicted for an adult woman to wear with her "walking dress." (These illustrations are reproduced in a modern publication, *Fashions and Costumes from Godey's Lady's Book*, edited by Stella Blum, published in 1985 by Dover Press.)

From my own collection of the original *Godey's Lady's Book*, the May 1856 edition depicts two straw cottage bonnets on page 389; these are described as being of "rice straw strewn with field flowers" (written description on page 479). The editor promises in that issue to have more information about hats and bonnets in the next month, and she does not disappoint her readers. In the June 1856 issue (p. 572), the fashion editor writes:

*The summer bonnets are a mixture of chip [a kind of pasteboard], or any other light fancy straw, tulle, blonde [a sheer net], ribbon, and flowers. The flowers are in infinite variety, bouquets and sprays imitating nature perfectly, and, as a general thing, little mixtures of two sets of blossoms: for instance, monk's-hood of crape with velvet foliage, large blue flag flowers in tufts, bluebells mixed with loops of lace, lilac magnolias in crape with pendent sprays.*

The same issue provides pen-and-ink drawings of four wide-brimmed straw hats, called "flats" or "Dunstables," for women and girls. The drawings, found on page 489 of the June 1856 issue, are described on page 545 as depicting "a fine split straw flat with elegant straw rosette" and "a fine Dunstable, full trimmed, with white plume" for women, and two such "Dunstable" hats for young girls, with the "underbrim neatly lined" on one and a "beautiful [flower] wreath around edge of brim" on the other. All four are broad-brimmed straw hats

similar to what visitors to the Root House will see on our docents who escort them into the garden this summer. While our straw hats are not lavishly trimmed, they nevertheless comport with the description of such hats in the July 1856 issue of *Godey's* (p. 94):

*At this season of the year, a broad straw flat, usually of a coarse braid, and trimmed lightly with a dark or white Mantua ribbon, will be found picturesque and much more comfortable than felt or beaver.*

The broad-brimmed straw hat was considered appropriate for informal occasions and also for summer visits to vacation spots. It did not take the place of a bonnet for church-going or for formal visits to friends and family. (See *American Victorian Costume in Early Photographs* by Priscilla Harris Dalrymple, published in 1991 by Dover Press, p. 11, for a description of clothing of the 1850s.)

The last type of summer headgear which Mrs. Root, her servants, and other women in the community would have considered wearing in the heat of the Marietta summer was the cloth sunbonnet. These hats were generally of a very lightweight cotton or linen, with a wide straight brim across the front, stiffened with bone or cording sewn into tight channels in the brim, and sporting a long “bavolet” or curtain across the back and sides to shield the neck and shoulders from the sun. While these bonnets were almost always utilitarian, worn for gardening or other outdoor work (such as laundry), *Godey's* (July 1856, p. 94) nevertheless describes a dressier version “intended for the country or seaside...for children or young ladies; [they] are found very convenient in the country, as they project beyond the forehead sufficiently to protect it from the rays of the sun, whilst a large bavolet or cape shades the neck.”

Any Root House docent desiring to make her own sunbonnet, or trim a straw bonnet or hat to wear this summer or next, need only contact me for help in drafting a pattern, buying a straw form, picking out fabrics, or looking at my numerous books on mid-19<sup>th</sup> century fashion for ideas for colors and trims. A summer bonnet or hat is essential for spending any time in the Root House garden. Step back in time and wear the appropriate head covering for fun in the sun!

***Second Annual Historic Open House  
in Cobb County a Success***

*by Daryl Barksdale*

On Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, several hundred citizens from Cobb County and the surrounding regions visited historic properties, museums, and historic sites throughout the county in celebration of National Preservation Month. The event was co-sponsored by Cobb Landmarks and Cobb Preservation Foundation, and participating partner organizations included The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, the Friends of Brumby Hall, the Vinings Historic Preservation Society, the Seven Springs Historical Society, the Smyrna Historical Society, the City of Acworth, and the Acworth Community Center. Several privately-owned properties were also graciously opened to the public. Properties in Marietta, Acworth, Vinings, Powder Springs, Smyrna, and East Cobb, dating from the 1840s through the 1950s, were open on a sunny Sunday afternoon with perfect spring weather. Many of the sites' visitation logs showed large numbers of visitors from around the metro Atlanta region; the Seven Springs Museum in Powder Springs reported triple the usual visitation. We were glad to hear that two groups of Power family relatives from the North Georgia area visited their ancestors' homeplace, the Power Cabin, for the first time ever. Thanks to all participating organizations and visitors!

## *A Unique Educational Effort: Talking Walls 2008*

*by Abbie Parks*

A unique “classroom” will be filled again this summer as the Landmarks heritage education workshop begins July 21<sup>st</sup>. Before the school term ended last week, the rolls for the CLHS *Talking Walls* program were filled to its 35-teacher capacity. Word of mouth from former participants and a great cooperative effort with Cobb County Schools helped ensure a full roster for the program.

This hands-on, interactive weeklong program, established by The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation in 1991, is conducted by Cobb Landmarks in partnership with The Georgia Trust, Kennesaw State University, and the Cobb County School System. The goal of *Talking Walls* is to put teachers and their students in touch with local historic resources while learning about the cultural and folk traditions of their community.

The “classroom” in this case includes East Cobb’s 1840s Power Cabin, Acworth’s Rosenwald School and Bethel A.M.E. Church, Marietta’s Root House Museum, and the Marietta Museum of History. *Talking Walls* will also bring the classroom to the streets of Marietta, with walking tours of the Church Street-Cherokee Street Historic District and the Marietta City Cemetery. In a more traditional classroom setting, the teachers will attend sessions on oral history and architectural history.



*Talking Walls participants will visit the Power Cabin.*

Thanks to a generous grant from the Vaughan Foundation, Inc., the *Talking Walls* program is tuition-free and supplies the teachers with resource materials. Transportation and meals are also included without cost to the teachers. On tap this year for participants will be an authentic 1850s-style lunch cooked on the Root House wood stove, and soul food southern fare from Doug’s Place while visiting the African-American resources in Acworth.

Abbie Parks, *Talking Walls* Program Facilitator and CLHS Board member, thanks the Vaughan Foundation for the generous grant which enables CLHS to offer such a comprehensive program, incorporating a broad spectrum of field experiences and facilitated by seasoned social studies teacher, Carla Carden Miller, whose enthusiasm for local history makes Cobb’s rich heritage come alive for the teachers.

Of last year’s program, one veteran teacher with 25 years’ experience commented, “This has been the best staff development class I have ever attended.” When asked to identify the most useful part of the workshop, one teacher responded, “Learning the area where I have lived for years and knew absolutely nothing about.” Another said, “I now have a greater appreciation of the valuable resources here in Cobb.” As Abbie Parks says, “What better way to educate Cobb’s youth than by teaching her teachers about Cobb’s rich and diverse heritage?” *Talking Walls* is one important way in which Cobb Landmarks is helping to ensure for Cobb’s future an appreciation for its rich historic past.

## ***Cobb County Historic Marker Program: The Gantt House***

*by Mandy Elliott*

[This article is the first in a series designed to acquaint readers of *The Landmarker* with the various markers placed by the Cobb County Historic Marker Program around Cobb County. Look for more information on these historic markers in future issues.]

The following is the text for the Gantt House historic marker. Located on Lower Roswell Road just southwest of the intersection with Old Canton Road, this historic farmhouse is listed in the Cobb County Register of Historic Places.

### **Gantt House c. 1880**

**John D. Gantt came to Cobb County in the 1850s with his parents and siblings, and married in 1858. Although the family's farm was destroyed during the Civil War, they rebuilt and continued to acquire land. Years later, the family built this house, which featured 6 rooms, 2 porches and 4 fireplaces. After John's passing in 1903, the property remained in the Gantt family. John's son Jasper eventually became sole owner and in 1922 owned approximately 195 acres. Jasper died in 1937 without heirs. The land that included the house was sold in 1950, but the vast majority of the estate was eventually developed into the surrounding subdivisions.**

John Gantt's parents, William and Rosanna Gant, lived in DeKalb County before moving to Cobb sometime in the 1850s. John's brother Newt came home from serving in the Civil War to find the farm in ruins. According to the 1860 census, John was married to Salena A. Gantt and had a one-year-old child. The 1880 census shows that John Gantt (John began spelling Gantt with two "t"s) lived on the property with a wife and ten children.

The Cobb County Historic Marker Program was initiated in 2005 by the Cobb County Board of Commissioners with the encouragement of Dr. Phil Secrist, noted historian and former Chairman. To date, twelve markers have been completed, with seven currently installed. The Historic Preservation Commission oversees the program and creates a list of sites that is approved by the Board of Commissioners. For more information on the program or existing markers, contact Mandy Elliott at 770-528-2010 or [mandy.elliott@cobbcounty.org](mailto:mandy.elliott@cobbcounty.org) or visit <http://comdev.cobbcountyga.gov/historic-markers/>.



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