

SMHS Newsletter No. 4, October 2016



Greetings

Enjoy this undated, detailed view of East Mountain Street and the original route of Highway 78 found in the Hagley Museum Archives in Delaware. The old Wayside Inn and its support buildings show clearly as well as the small bungalows on East Mountain. It is a different view of the mountain than is usually photographed and it is cropped to show the relationship of the mountain and the village. Let me know if you want to see the full view.

The Society has been busy over the summer with fundraising, refreshing the healthcare exhibit, and laying the foundation for the 1871 Club. Our Fourth of July breakfast was a great success as was our presentation on the geophysical survey of the City Cemetery. Both had record setting attendance! The invitation letter for the 1871 Club will be sent out next week. This is a separate voluntary membership to provide annually at least \$18.71 toward the care and maintenance of the Wells Brown House. Please consider helping us maintain this beautiful historic building by joining when you get the letter. We would love to see any permutation of that build date (\$187.10 and up) to get us on a strong path toward that preservation effort.

We received a marvelous gift of a collection of Civil War books from William Allen, a long-time member and Civil War scholar. Mr. Allen, currently a Florida resident who grew up near the village off of Ponce, also generously gifted the Society with a thousand dollars to help us move forward with our preservation aims. The icing on the cake was two annuals for Stone Mountain High School! We are in his debt and we will open the book collection next month.

We are also very fortunate for the kindness of Becky and Mike Sanders who have allowed us to reprint the Bears of Stone Mountain children's book series which is described



2016 Officers and Board

Mary Beth Reed, President
Kathryn Wright, Membership
Theresa Hamby, Secretary
Rusty Hamby, House Manager
Melanie Florence, Treasurer

At Large Members

Susan Devine, Keeper of the Grounds
Jim McCurdy, Community Relations
Chakira Johnson, Website Manager
Naomi Thompson, Park Liaison
Frank Luton, Business Manager

below. The author Dot Guess was described beautifully by Kathryn Wright as our village's own Beatrix Potter and indeed she was. The illustrations are the invention of her daughter Becky Sanders who brings the bears to life in her drawings. We are honored and hope this reprint will introduce a whole new generation of young readers to this amazing family of bears!

We enthusiastically welcome Melanie Florence as our new treasurer and board member. She will do a great job. And finally we thank Theresa Hamby for serving as our interim treasurer for the majority of last year. Well done!

Depot Update

Visit the new temporary exhibit at the Depot on Fridays and weekends presented by the Cody Lane Memorial Toy and Diarama enthusiasts. The dioramas range in topic from Star Wars to the Civil War. The exhibitors mounted a well-received exhibit at Douglasville's City Hall last year. It is off beat, familiar, and well executed by this band of diarists, some of whom grew up in our village! Check the Visitor Center for times.

THE BEARS OF STONE MOUNTAIN

by our Own Beatrix Potter,

Dot Guess

Did you know a family of bears lives in a secret cave on the far side of Stone Mountain?

Many people have tried to find that cave, but that's a secret, the Bears of Stone Mountain mean to keep.

Sometimes they come to the village, join in a holiday parade, hop on a train at the depot, fall off trees and once had to be rescued from the head of Robert E. Lee's horse...

Join Father and Mother Bear and their cubs Samantha, Sidney, and the twins in this charming five volume set of stories about their mountain adventures.

Written in the 1980s, the Bears of Stone Mountain are the timeless creation of Dot Guess and her daughter Becky Sanders. Dot Guess, an Agnes Scott graduate, brought her deep love of her birthplace, Stone Mountain, and her decades of experience as a first grade teacher to her writing about a loving bear family just over the mountain. Things happen in these stories. Some that make you laugh or say "oh no!" Others make you nod your head in sympathy because the Bears of Stone Mountain are remarkably like human families. Becky Sander's whimsical illustrations truly complement the stories, adding charm to these gentle but engaging stories. Children will also enjoy their size, fitting easily into little hands.

GRANITE GUARDIANS



PVT. WALTER F. OGLETREE

U.S. ARMY 30TH DIVISION

WORLD WAR II VETERAN



SPONSORED BY
MARY BETH REED

New banner program for Main Street saluting our Veterans. Contact Diana Hollis by email at droehollis@gmail.com, or Theresa Hamby by email at thamby@newsouthassoc.com

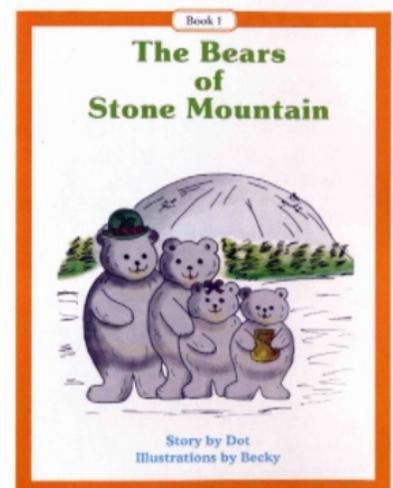
SPAGHETTI DINNER



**SAVE THE DATE!
SOCIETY FUNDRAISER**

WELLS CARGO RESTAURANT
Main Street
November 14, 2016
6:00-8:pm

Thanks to Hilda and Lynn Wells!



The Stone Mountain Historical Society has the honor of reprinting this set in 2016 with permission of the family. The set of books will be available at ART Station's gift store, at Nan's, Cafe Jaya, and through society members. Reserve a set for Christmas for your children, your grandchildren or for yourself. The set of five books is priced at \$25.

Events - Come Join Us!

UPDATED EXHIBIT

October, The Doctor Is In, WELLS BROWN HOUSE

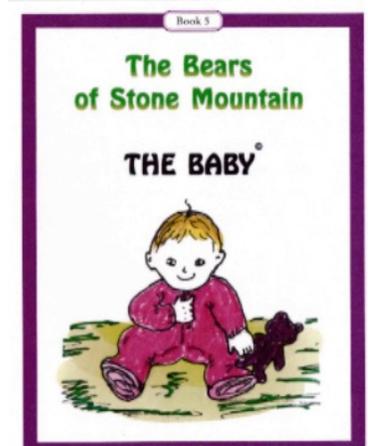
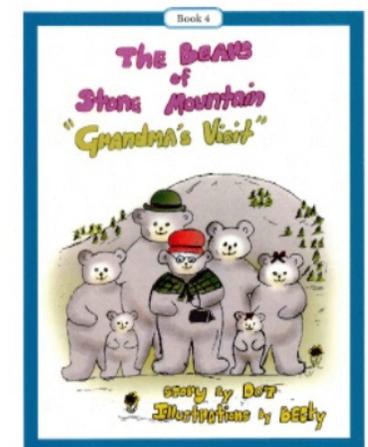
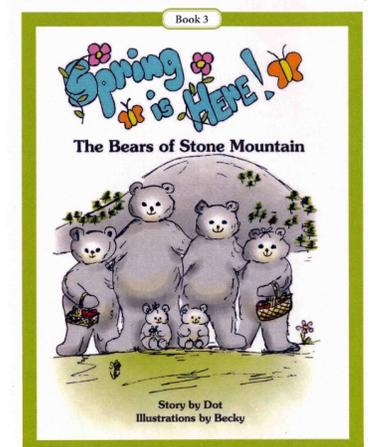
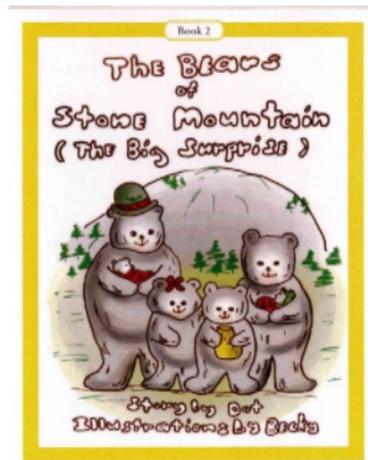
We are very excited about adding to the current exhibit especially before Veteran's Day. When we pulled together the information on Stone Mountain's doctors for the original exhibit, we missed one – Dr. James McCurdy. Son of Dr. Bill McCurdy and brother to Dr. Willis McCurdy, Dr. James Mc Curdy served our country during World War II in the Pacific Theater. He would die in a car accident a few short years after his return home. Through the thoughtfulness of board member Jim McCurdy, we are fortunate to have had access to his letters written home mostly to his father during the war. His career and accomplishments are the focus of new interpretive panels that chart his experience as he grew from small town doctor to a military doctor and surgeon and to some degree an ambassador for our country.

PRESENTATION: Remember When With Tom Eldridge

October 20th, 6-8 pm, WELLS BROWN HOUSE

Come join us in welcoming Tom Eldridge who will speak about his long time connection to the village and mountain in this Remember When. While he grew up in Druid Hills in Atlanta at Stonehenge, the Venable homeplace at the corner of Ponce de Leon Avenue and Oakdale Road which is now St. John's Lutheran Church, his summers were spent in Stone Mountain at Wohelo, one of Stone Mountain's impressive summer homes. Tug Tuggle reports that Mr. Eldridge's youthful accomplishments included "rather accurate impersonations of "Little Beaver," the famous Navaho sidekick of Red Ryder, and, later, street rod race car driver." Tom's grandmother, Elizabeth Venable Mason owned one half of the mountain and his youthful summers were spent at Wohelo wandering the forests as "Little Beaver." Tom went on to a successful career in commercial real estate development with Taylor and Mathis. His attachment to Stone Mountain runs deep hence he and his wife's return some twenty years ago to our community. It was a natural fit. Please join us for this special presentation!

Refreshments served.



CITY WIDE GARAGE SALE

October 22, 9:00 am, WELLS BROWN HOUSE

The Society will join in this citywide event with items for sale on our front lawn. Members have given us items to sell as donations and we are cleaning out our closets! Please stop by and make a purchase or two! All monies collected go to sustaining the preservation of our community's history.

PRESENTATION: Georgia Novelist Author Victoria Wilcox

October 24th, 7:00 pm, SUE KELLOGG LIBRARY

Please join us for a great talk by Georgia novelist Victoria Wilcox. Ms. Wilcox has been a teacher of English and composition and is a nationally known writer and lecturer on the life of Doc Holliday. She is a member of the Western Writers of America and Founding Director of Georgia's Holliday-Dorsey-Fife House Museum. The Society is a cosponsor of the event which is being held at the Sue Kellogg/Stone Mountain Library's Quarterly Meeting

From Amazon: "The name Doc Holliday conjures images of the Wild West and the shootout at the OK Corral, but before he was a Western legend he was a Southern son, born in the last days of the Old South with family links to the author of *Gone with the Wind*. Now this amazing story is told for the first time in a trilogy of novels entitled *Southern Son: The Saga of Doc Holliday*. The story begins with *Inheritance*, set during the turbulent times of the American Civil War, as young John Henry Holliday welcomes home his heroic father and learns a terrible secret about his beloved mother. *Inheritance* is the first novel in an epic tale of heroes and villains, dreams lost and found, families broken and reconciled, of sin and recompense and the redeeming power of love."

SAVE THE DAY!

SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER, WELLS CARGO, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14th, 6:00-8pm. Come and support the society and have a wonderful dinner compliments of Hilda and Lynn Wells. Huge thank you to both of them for their generosity!



Planning a Small Event?

The Wells Brown House and grounds are beautiful in all seasons and are available for small gatherings. It is a perfect setting for an intimate wedding, bridal or baby shower, or meeting and we are happy to work with you to make sure your event is a success. If you are interested, please contact Rusty Hamby.



CAFE JAYA HIGH TEA
AT THE WELLS BROWN HOUSE!
Help us start a new tradition!

Come join us as Cafe Jaya presents one of their marvelous high teas at the Wells Brown House on November 5, from 3:00-5:00 pm.

Call Rory or Jeff at 678-439-JAYA to make your reservation. Reservations are required but can be made that morning. Parking in adjacent lot.



2017 Society Calendar Available

This year we focused on Stone Mountain "Firsts." From our first theatre to the first state championship won by the "Penicillin Kids," each month shows a different first for our village.