

Buckhead Heritage Society

NEWSLETTER 2010

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Mission:

Buckhead Heritage strives to sustain the quality of life in Buckhead by identifying, preserving, and promoting its historic resources.



Dear Friends,

As the oppressive summer months slip thankfully away, we at Buckhead Heritage are looking forward to fall. Cooler weather, football and changing leaves are just around the corner. So is our inaugural fundraiser, Party in the Pasture, which is scheduled for October 23, 2010. But before we turn our sights to fall, I want to briefly reflect on some of our recent achievements.

The biggest news of 2010 at Buckhead Heritage was the hiring of our new Executive Director, Erica Danylchak. With a Master of Heritage Preservation degree from Georgia State University and work experience at the Atlanta History Center, Erica possesses all of the credentials necessary to make an excellent Executive Director. But it is her boundless enthusiasm for Buckhead Heritage's mission and her willingness to take on any task that has impressed our Board of Directors most.

In her short eight months on the job, Erica has already presided over a sold out Civil War lecture at Bobby Jones Golf Course and a sold out lecture on Buckhead architecture at The Cathedral of St. Philip. Erica has also been serving as a preservation resource to the community through our Landowner Technical Assistance Program. Recently, she spearheaded the preparation of a National Register nomination for Sardis United Methodist Church. She is also working on an interesting project with the Cherokee Garden Library to identify and document any remaining work of legendary landscape architect, William Monroe, Sr. You will find an article by Erica on this project in the Newsletter.

On the preservation front, Buckhead Heritage continues to fight against the proposed removal of Mt. Olive Cemetery at Frankie Allen Park. To this end, Buckhead Heritage filed a lawsuit against the developer who bought the cemetery property. Although his Application for a Burial Disturbance Permit was denied by the Atlanta City Council, he has appealed this ruling to the Fulton County Superior Court in hopes of having the City Council's decision overturned. While the City defends this lawsuit, Buckhead Heritage presses forward with its own lawsuit against the developer.

Buckhead Heritage's Oral History Project continues to flourish under the direction of Board Member Chad Wright. You can view clips of some of the interviews on our own YouTube channel! Our interns, Angelica Dion, Steve Bare and Mera Cardenas have done a great job for us and we are indebted to Founding Member Deirdre Finan for helping us get our archives in order!

So, as you can see, we have been pretty busy lately. And things only promise to get busier with planning for Party in the Pasture well underway. This casual event will be held at the family meadow of Board Member Ivan Allen IV off Northside Drive. It will feature barbecue from One Star Ranch, Bluegrass music, history themed demonstrations and kid friendly activities. You will be receiving an invitation in the coming weeks and we hope to see you there!

As always, please feel free to contact us at any time should you have questions about Buckhead Heritage or Buckhead history in general. After all, without the support of you, our members, none of this would be possible. Thank you!

Wright Mitchell President

Events



Phoenix Flies Tour of Harmony Grove Cemetery March 6, 2010

Buckhead Heritage hosted a tour of Harmony Grove Cemetery in partnership with the Atlanta Preservation Center's Phoenix Flies program – a citywide celebration of living landmarks. Wright Mitchell. Buckhead Heritage Society President. guided approximately 40 visitors through the restored site and shared stories of the early Buckhead settlers now resting Harmony there. Grove founded in 1870 and is one of Buckhead's few remaining landmarks that hearken back to Buckhead's origins as a rural farming community.



Tour of Harmony Grove Cemetery. Photograph courtesy of Tim Small.



Battles for Buckhead Lecture. From left to right: Bob Helget Tamara Treasurer; Bazzle Vice President; Robert Jenkins Guest Speaker; Jill Toth Board Member; Chad Wright Secretary. Photograph courtesy Kim Photography.

Battles for Buckhead Lecture May 14, 2010

Buckhead Heritage hosted Civil War historian and author Robert Jenkins for a return speaking engagement following last year's sold-out lecture on the Battle of Peach Tree Creek. This year, Jenkins regaled another sold-out crowd with details of the Battles of Moore's Mill, Nancy Creek, and Peach Tree Creek. The lecture and preceding reception were held at the Bobby Jones Golf Club, which stands on ground where the Battle of Peach Tree Creek took place. Buckhead Heritage again thanks the Vawter Group, Atlanta Fine Homes Sotheby's International Realty for generously sponsoring this event.

Civil War Living History Demonstration May 15, 2010

On the morning following his lecture, Robert Jenkins conducted a living history demonstration at Tanyard Creek Park, the site of fierce combat during the Battle of Peach Tree Creek. During his presentation, Jenkins vividly described the atmosphere of battle

amidst the haze of gunfire. He also provided insight into the daily lives of soldiers during the conflict. Buckhead Heritage expresses its gratitude once again to the Vawter Group, Atlanta Fine Homes Sotheby's International Realty for sponsoring this event.

Buckhead's Architectural Inheritance: Beyond Reid, Shutze, and Crook August 19, 2010

Buckhead Heritage hosted Wright Marshall, President of Revival Construction, for lecture exploring the rich architectural legacy left to us by significant, yet surprisingly unfamiliar, Atlanta architects of the early twentieth century. Marshall highlighted the work of Pringle & Smith, Frazier & Bodin, Tucker & Howell, and Mayre, Alger & Vinour. Buckhead Heritage sincerely thanks Guardsman for sponsoring this program.

For updated event information, please visit our website at: www.buckheadheritage.com/events

Harmony Grove Cemetery

Buckhead Heritage intiated a comprehensive restoration of Harmony Grove Cemetery in 2006 and since that time has been amassing deed records, obituaries, and historical newspaper accounts that tell the stories of the evolution of the property and the people interred there. This year, Buckhead Heritage completed processing its Harmony Grove Cemetery Archive to facilitate access to a weath of information by staff and future researchers.

Buckhead Heritage is extremely grateful to the descendents and

families who have shared personal stories with us about those who rest in Harmony Grove Cemetery. This past spring, Brenda Poss contacted us and shared accounts of Charlotte Krause, who is the most recently documented burial in the cemetery. Ms. Poss



is married to a relative of Charlotte Krause.

We now know that Charlotte was a spunky, headstrong woman who was born in 1892 in Lessing, Germany, the daughter of August and Martha Krause. Charlotte had four siblings—Margaret (Hanye), Gertrude (Poss-Kent), Richard, and Corwin. She once had a serious suitor, but never married. During her youth, she was quite adventurous. She joined her brother Corwin on his ranch in Colorado and worked there as a secretary. During the 1930s, she applied to work as a secretary on an Indian reservation, but was informed at the time that it would have been "inadvisable to take a lady to a Navajo Reservation."

Charlotte lived the last half of her life in a two bedroom house on Virginia Place in Buckhead. It had no heating, no inside toilet or running water, and no electricity. Her family describes Charlotte as quirky. She lived to be 89 years old and attributed her longevity to eating plenty of shredded wheat and to not eating meat. She had always distrusted banks. After she passed away, her family found her life's savings, over \$10,000, stashed in old plastic bread bags and in the cups of bras that were used throughout the drafty house as insulation. Charlotte was buried in Harmony Grove Cemetery in 1982.

To request access to the Harmony Grove Cemetery Archive, please call 404-467-9447.

Buckhead Heritage sincerely thanks Deirdre Finan for dedicating her time and expertise to processing the Harmony Grove Archive to the highest professional standards.

Update on Mt. Olive Cemetery

For the last year, Buckhead Heritage has been vigorously opposing the application filed by developer Brandon Marshall to remove the graves at the African American Mt. Olive Cemetery on Pharr Road. Buckhead Heritage Board Members and staff have testified repeatedly to historical and cultural significance of the cemetery during meetings of the Atlanta Urban Design Commission (AUDC) and committee meetings of the Atlanta City Council.

In December 2009, the AUDC voted to recommend that the Atlanta City Council deny the application for the cemetery's removal. The Atlanta City Council subsequently opposed Marshall's request by a vote of 11 to 1 on March 15, 2010. On March 31st Marshall filed a complaint in the Superior Court of Fulton County seeking declaratory relief and judicial review of the City Council's decision. No further action has been taken at this time.

Elon Osby Lawsuit

In September 2009, as Brandon Marshall's application was being reviewed by the City of Atlanta, a lawsuit was filed in Fulton County Superior Court against the developer on behalf of Elon Butts Osby, whose ancestors are buried in Mt. Olive Cemetery. The lawsuit argues that Mt. Olive Cemetery is a public cemetery and therefore cannot be disturbed under Georgia law. Ms. Osby is being represented by **Buckhead Heritage Society President** Wright Mitchell. The Osby v. Marshall hearing has not yet taken place.

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Landowner Technical Assistance Program



In 2009, Buckhead Heritage launched its Landowner Technical Assistance Program through which we serve as a local resource for landowners pursuing their preservation goals, including listing their historic properties on the National Register of Historic Places.

Buckhead Heritage has been assisting Sardis United Methodist Church with completing a National Register nomination for the property as part of this program. The nomination and associated historical documentation was submitted in September 2010, to the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office for review.

Sardis United Methodist Church

On a noticeable rise behind a shopping center and gas station along Roswell Road at its intersection with Powers Ferry Road, a dignified church stands sentinel to a history that stretches back over 150 years. In 1821, the state of Georgia parceled out land that it had recently acquired from the Creek Indian Nation. Joel Neal is the first recorded owner of land lot 97 in the 17th district. The land later passed to Ransom Gaines and Henry Irby, who ultimately deeded the property to the Trustees of Sardis Methodist Church in 1849.

In the 1850s, the Trustees built a stout, twostory, frame church on the rural site. This modest church managed to survive Sherman's wrath during the Civil War, but could not escape the destruction of a tornado that tore through the area in 1875. Sardis Methodist Church subsequently built a second church building on the site with the assistance of the Sardis Masonic Lodge No. 107, which used the second floor as a meeting space until 1915. In 1925, the congregation tore down the second building to make way for Sardis's third incarnation—the present building adjacent to Powers Ferry Road.

In 1925, Sardis Methodist Church employed local architect James Owen Southwell to design the elegant edifice passersby see today. Southwell had studied architecture at Tulane University and later attended the Carnegie Institute of Technology in Pittsburg where he studied under renowned architect Henry Hornbostel. Hornbostel later employed Southwell and asked Southwell to manage his Atlanta office. In 1922, however, Southwell entered into private practice; he was one of the few trained architects practicing in Atlanta at the time. His known designs include residences in Druid Hills and Buckhead and the St. Charles Apartments in Virginia-Highlands. Sardis UMC is the only known example of his ecclesiastical architecture in Georgia. In 1931, Southwell moved back to New Iberia, Louisiana, where he had been born and raised.

Oral History Update

Buckhead Heritage began recording oral history interviews last year in an effort to preserve personal recollections of the community's history. This year, we began adding the transcripts of these interviews to our website to provide open access to these accounts not only to historians, but also to those simply curious about Buckhead's history.

This year, we also launched our own YouTube Channel to help us share some of the captivating stories that we have been collecting during these interviews. Visit YouTube channel, our http://www.youtube.com/user/BuckheadHeritage to watch a video clip of Cecil Alexander recalling how he was inspired to build his Round House on Mt. Paran Road. Or, enjoy Harry Gilham recollecting the escapades of North Fulton High School students who congregated at the Pink Castle on West Paces Ferry Road during World War II. Or, hear Mose Bond recounting how the construction of Lenox Mall changed the shopping habits of Atlantans in the 1960s. We will be updating our channel frequently with new stories, so check back often!

The Legacy of William Monroe, Sr.

Have you ever played in the Witches' Cave? Have you ever listened to a concert in a stone formed amphitheater on a sultry Atlanta evening? Have you ever picnicked under a rough-hewn log shelter in Buckhead's own backyard? If so, you have enjoyed just a few of the historic landscape elements at Chastain Memorial Park.

In the late 1930s, Troy G. Chastain spearheaded an effort on behalf of the Fulton County Commission to create a park that would foster quality residential development on the north side of Atlanta. Originally named North Fulton Park, it was renamed and rededicated in 1945 as Troy G. Chastain Memorial Park. William Monroe, Sr., a pioneer Atlanta landscape architect and master stonemason. is credited with overseeing the construction of the stone elements at Chastain Park during its initial development. Monroe had been hired as a special consultant for Fulton County to help develop several parks in Atlanta, including Chastain's sister park in southwest Atlanta-Adams Park.



Throughout Chastain Park, naturalistic stone elements create inviting places to picnic, wander, and gather together. Monroe oversaw a large workforce of WPA and prison labor to construct rock benches carved into hillsides, twelve

stone picnic grills, networks of stone steps that meander through the woods, and a bowlshaped amphitheater

positioned within the existing topography. Meanwhile, Monroe drew inspiration from Craftsman-style recreational retreats, common throughout the burgeoning National Park system, for the rustic picnic shelters within the park. At the heart of the site, Monroe designed the Master Grill and the Witches' Cave, a 100-foot rock tunnel, with seats positioned within wall recesses. (The Witches' cave was blocked up years ago to prevent vandalism and "naughty behavior." However, this unique landscape element is a high priority for restoration efforts at the park.) Monroe's level of involvement in the overall design for Chastain Park has not been determined.

William Monroe, Sr. (1892-1965) had settled in Atlanta in 1919 and opened the Monroe Landscape and Nursery Company in a rural section of northeast Atlanta in 1925. Formerly located on what is now his namesake-Monroe Drive-in Ansley Park neighborhood of Atlanta, the company was one of the first of its kind in the city. Monroe was also one of the city's earliest landscape architects and created memorable naturalistic gardens and parks from the mid-1920s until the early 1960s. His signature was using stone walkways, stone retaining walls, rock lily pools, waterfalls, and stone furniture to create "inviting natural spaces where the structural elements were woven into the environment suggesting the close connection between man and nature." (Adams Park NRHP Nomination). By the 1930s, his business had expanded sufficiently to garner not only largescale commissions for Fulton County,



but also commissions for wealthy clients in the Buckhead area. His works included the Troy G. Chastain House on Habersham Road, the Hugh Nunnally Estate on Blackland Road, the Chester Martin Estate on Blackland Road, and the Carlyle Fraser Estate on Vernon Road.

Unfortunately, the bulk of Monroe's drawings perished in the 1950s and documentation of his significant contributions Buckhead's landscape history is scarce. Monroe likely designed landscape plans for dozens of clients in the area, but they remain unidentified. Buckhead Heritage, in partnership with the Cherokee Garden Library, Kenan Research Center at the Atlanta History Center, is seeking to uncover sources of information on Monroe's work and to identify gardens that he designed. By gathering further documentation of his contributions to landscape design and by raising awareness of his important work, and Buckhead Heritage Cherokee Garden Library aim to foster a conscious respect for his projects that will promote their preservation.

If you have information about William Monroe, Sr. or his specific projects, please contact 404-467-9447 or info@buckheadheritage.com.

Buckhead Heritage sincerely thanks Edward L. Daugherty, FASLA; Ray Mock, Director of Operations, Chastain Park Conservancy; Staci Catron, Director, Cherokee Garden Library; and Corliss Claire and Steve Montgomery of the Adams Park neighborhood for contributing information for this article.

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Buckhead Heritage Society

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Please send this form and your check payable to:

Buckhead Heritage 3180 Mathieson Drive, Suite 200 Atlanta, GA 30305

Or join online at

www.buckheadheritage.com

Party in the Pasture

October 23, 2010 from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Save the date for a day of barbeque, bluegrass, and Buckhead history! Our members will receive more information as the date approaches.

Hands on Atlanta Day

When: October 2, 2010 Time: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm Where: Harmony Grove Cemetery

Buckhead Heritage is partnering with Hands on Atlanta to host a workday at this historic cemetery in the heart of Buckhead. We'll be planting daffodils, laying mulch and pine straw, and much, much more! For more information about volunteering for this event, please visit www.buckheadheritage.com/events.



In February, we sent out our first communiqué to email members. Since then, we have sent key updates on our projects and advanced notification of upcoming programs, while keeping promise not to inundate inboxes. Eblasts are an efficient way to keep our members up-to-date on what we are accomplishing in a timely manner and a cost-effective way to send out information on future programs. If you have not already provided us with your email address, please contact us info@buckheadheritage.com 404-467-9447. We promise to maintain your privacy and not share your e-mail address.



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