

History Adventure

Sequoyah, played by Mark Eaton, a Cherokee Indian from North Georgia, asks the eighth graders to repeat the Cherokee syllabary after him. He tells them what their names sound like in the Cherokee language and, after the presentation, students don't want to move to the next station because they have questions. They ask about the Cherokee newspaper that was printed in north Georgia at the beginning of the nineteenth century until Cherokee removal in 1838-39. They ask about George Gist's mixed Cherokee and European heritage and why he thought it was important to bring a written language to his people. They ask about Sequoyah's curious



Jim Sawgrass, a Creek Indian, demonstrates a variety of tools.

clothing, which has no feathers, but includes a buckskin jacket and colorful turban.

When the students reach the Creek Indian encampment they hear stories of the early deerskin trade with Europeans. Why did the Natives want iron skilletts for cooking and knives for cutting? What did guns mean to them in terms of hunting and warfare? Next, they ask James Oglethorpe about his relationship with the Yamacraw Indians of South Georgia and the hardships faced by the pioneers in the Georgia colony. He tells them of the help he received from Chief Tomochichi, who became his friend and even travelled back to England with him. When Harriett Tubman calls the students over, she has them envision her missions to rescue enslaved people and bring them to freedom, each time risking her own life. She talks about the network of good people who worked to rescue slaves.

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Archives 101

The DeKalb History Center Archives directly supports the organization's mission to collect, preserve and share the history of DeKalb County by maintaining and adding to the archival collections, and assisting with the inquiries and reference needs of the public. The Archives is maintained and supported by the Archivist, **Nicole Carmolingo**, and volunteers that assist her with various projects. Our collections are made up of materials specific to DeKalb County history and we are the only organization with an archive that focuses solely on countywide history.

As a **collecting archive**, the DHC Archives is a repository that collects materials from outside sources, such as individuals, families, organizations, businesses and local governments. This means that our collections do not just contain items created or saved by the DeKalb History Center, but also materials donated to us by others. It is through the continued donation of materials that

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Upcoming Events

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Dance Hall Decatur - New Year's Eve

Wednesday, December 31, 8:30 pm - 12:30 am

Historic DeKalb Courthouse, 101 E. Court Sq., Decatur, GA 30030

RESERVATIONS: \$35 each, or \$25 for DHC Members

\$15 for guests under 21 only, please!

Ring in the New Year and dance the night away! Come out and dance with us as a professional DJ plays hits from the 1970s to the present. Reservations are available at our offices or online through PayPal and include appetizers, festive party favors, and two drink tickets. Additional drink tickets available at the event. Festive dress is encouraged. Represent your favorite musical style or decade if you like, or just show up prepared to dance!

Special thanks to these businesses:

Catering by Badda Bing!

Graphic Design provided by Jackson Spalding

Event Design provided by Soiree South & Co.

Lunch & Learn

Archives 101:

Getting to Know the DeKalb History Center Archives

January 20, noon – 1:00 p.m.

Historic DeKalb Courthouse, 101 E. Court Sq., Decatur, GA 30030

Free - Bring your lunch!

Our January Lunch and Learn will highlight our own Archives! Our archivist, **Nicole Carmolingo**, will give a crash course to help you better understand the DHC Archives. Her presentation will include an overview of our archival collections as well as insight into how the Archives functions. She will also discuss the process of conducting research here and give helpful information for anyone interested in doing future research with us.

As the DHC Archivist, Nicole works with researchers, donors, volunteers and the community to actively preserve DeKalb County's history. She was previously employed as an archivist with a private archival consulting firm where she had the opportunity to work with a variety of corporate and organizational collections. Nicole earned her Bachelors of Arts in political science from Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville, GA and her Masters of Heritage Preservation, with a public history focus, from Georgia State University in Atlanta, GA. She has held the distinction of "Certified Archivist" since 2012.

Civil War Walking Tours

Historic DeKalb Courthouse, 101 E. Court Sq., Decatur, GA 30030

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$6 for kids (ages 6 - 18)

Join us for guided Civil War walking tours in downtown Decatur. The hour-long tour begins in the lobby and complements our new exhibit, *Tears and Curses: A Human Perspective on the Civil War*. Learn about DeKalb's early history, the effects of the war on the local civilian population, the Atlanta Campaign, and the Battle of Decatur.

Upcoming dates (all of these are in the afternoon):

Tuesday **Dec. 9, 2:00**, Thursday **Dec. 11, 2:00**, Friday **Dec. 12, 2:00**,

Saturday **Dec. 13, 3:30**, Tuesday **Dec. 16, 2:00**, Friday **Dec. 19, 2:00**.

Check our website at www.dekalbhistory.org for January dates and times or to pay for reservations. ✦

DANCE HALL DECATUR

A BENEFIT FOR
THE DEKALB HISTORY CENTER

NEW
YEAR'S
EVE



DECEMBER 31, 8:30 P.M. - 12:30 A.M.

Be there or be ☐

Reservations: DeKalb History Center in Historic DeKalb Courthouse, 101 E. Court Square, downtown Decatur.
Or at dekalbhistory.org, or at the event.

\$35 or \$25 for DHC members. Professional DJ. Music from 1970s to now.
Festive party favors, light snacks, two drink tickets. Additional tickets available at event.

History

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Mary Gay, a Civil War diarist from Decatur, Benjamin Swanton, a prominent Decatur businessman during the mid-nineteenth century, Zenith Twilley, a free African-American seamstress who lived here during the mid-nineteenth century, and Fiddlin' Dan, a storytelling Georgia mountain man, complete the program.

The History Adventure is a three-day long curriculum-based living history program. It is held at the DeKalb History Center's historic complex and utilizes the Benjamin Swanton House, two pioneer log cabins, and the Mary Gay House, which is owned by the **Junior League of DeKalb County**.

"We cannot thank the Junior League enough for their support of this program. Not only do they open the Mary Gay House to students, but they supply volunteers to help with logistics at the house," said **Jenny Goldemund**, Programs and Preservation Coordinator for the DHC, "The History Adventure would not be possible without their help." The Junior League volunteers were Mindy Kaplan and Constance Harrison Franklin.

This year twelve hundred DeKalb County and City of Decatur students attended the History Adventure, which ran Oct. 21 through 23. The schools that attended were Stephenson Middle (160 students), Henderson Middle School (230 students), Path Academy (95 students), Druid Hills Middle School (240 students), Decatur's 4/5 Academy (340 students), Sagamore Hills Elementary (70 students) and Columbia Elementary (68 students).

DHC volunteers guided students through the eight stations of the event over the three-day period. **Nora Tocups**, **Gail Bardis**, DHC board member **Cathy Mullins** and board president **Mary K. Jarboe** helped with logistics, not only moving students from one area to the next, but unloading buses and answering question. **Steve Daniel** of Decatur, who played Benjamin Swanton at the Swanton House, taught students about local history for four to six hours each day.

Epps Aviation and **Georgia United Credit Union** were sponsors of the event. **The City of Decatur** pitched in by allowing us to use Adair Park for this program and for providing support in the form of park maintenance and cleanup. Furthermore, **A.S. Turner and Sons** funeral home set up and took down tents used by the presenters. The History Adventure was a great team effort and we thank everyone who was involved.

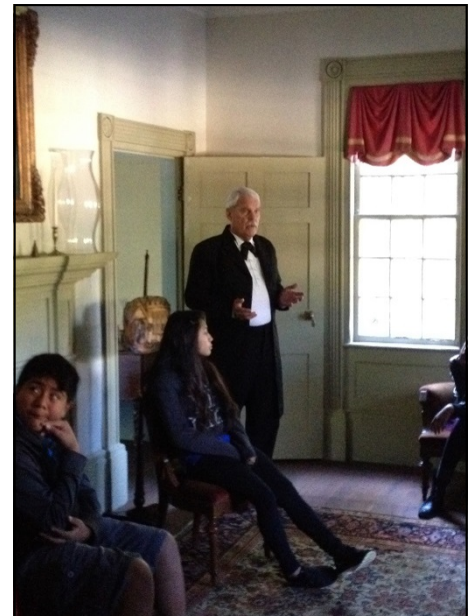
"When the chaperones come up to you to tell you how much they've learned and the teachers start making reservations



Cathy Kaemmerlan as Mary Gay.



Scott Hodges portrays James Oglethorpe.



Steve Daniel as Benjamin Swanton.

Adventure (cont.)

for next year before they've left, you know you have a good program," said Jenny, "but the best part is seeing the students' faces and hearing them talk about how excited they are to learn history from these great presenters! You know that this personal connection to history will inspire them to learn more." ✦



Fiddlin' Dan the Mountain Man by Reuben Haller.



LaDoris Davis as Zenith Twilley.



Above - Sequoyah is brought to life by Mark Eaton.

Left - Professional actress Yomi Goodall plays Harriett Tubman.

Winter Break Camp for School Children!

Improv Workshop: Comedy and History, Feb. 16 - 20, 9 am - 3 pm, ages 8 - 14

\$275/week (\$250 for members at household level and up). After care until 5 pm/\$10 per day. Must register in advance.

Campers spend a week at the Historic Courthouse playing improvisation games, role playing historic figures, and learning the basics of improv and stagecraft. Campers learn about character development, voice and diction, storytelling, public speaking, and performance. Campers will create flash performances of some of their favorite characters and will recreate historical events with a twist. Creativity, fun and learning are at the forefront in this unique camp experience. Contact Jenny at 404-373-1088, ext. 20 or by email at goldemund@dekalbhistory.org.

Getting to Know

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we are able to fulfill our mission. The Archivist is always happy to discuss potential donations with prospective donors and routinely adds materials to the Archives that support already existing collection areas or deal with a new topic or subject in DeKalb history that we don't currently cover in the Archives.

Our **Archives Reading Room** is open to researchers Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10am - 4pm, with an hour closure for lunch. Researchers are asked to make appointments with the Archivist prior to visiting. Appointments help the Archivist to better serve researchers by giving her time to run searches on a person's research topic and pull all appropriate materials. Appointments also ensure that the reading room - which is fairly small - is not overcrowded, and allows the Archivist to give her full attention to each researcher. Seeing researchers by appointment helps us to better and fully serve them and fulfill their requests and inquires.

Our archival collections are broken down into a few different categories, which are detailed below. Information about the collections can also be found on our website through the 'Archives and Research' page. The **Biographical Files** include files on individuals *and* families from DeKalb County, but not every family in DeKalb's history is represented. The files do not contain the same amount of information, and the materials found in each varies. Files can include research notes, newspaper clippings, obituaries, images, family trees and other items.

Our **Cemetery Files** contain information about cemeteries throughout the county, such as burial lists, newspaper clippings, images and surveys. We also have an electronic **Cemetery Burial Index**, which includes burial listings for *some* DeKalb County cemeteries. The Archivist can search this index for researchers through our internal collections database. This database also holds the indexes that we have for various sets of local records. Our **Local Records Indexes** include marriage records, land records, wills, and Superior Court records. The DHC Archives does not have these records in our holdings, but the index entries give the book and page number for each record, which are on file with the county. It should also be noted that our indexes are not complete, comprehensive listings of these local records. They typically cover a specific time period or group of records, so gaps do occur and our searches will not identify all the possible records the county might have.

The **Map Collection** in our Archives documents DeKalb County over the past two centuries. We have the maps arranged chronologically, and the collection spans a time period from the 1730s to the 1980s. The collection includes a variety of map types, such as road maps, plat maps, topographical maps, planning maps, property owner maps, city maps, real estate and sales maps. We also have a set of 1924 Sanborn Maps of Atlanta, which consists of nine volumes that cover the City of Atlanta as well as the western part of DeKalb County, with areas like Druid Hills and Decatur.

The **Oral History** section contains the "I Remember Hour" collection, which is made up of interviews with longtime DeKalb residents, government officials, and other community leaders. The "I Remember Hour" interviews are now on DVD and we are in the process of transcribing them. We also have a "Then & Now" series and a "Lunch and Learn" series. The collection includes discs and DVDs that were donated for research purposes. All of these recordings cover a wide array of topics and subjects pertaining to DeKalb County history.

Images of DeKalb County history are captured in our **Photograph Subject Files**, which depict various aspects of life throughout the county's history. Subjects covered include families and individuals, business and industry, churches, cities and communities, local government, homes and places, organizations, schools, and transportation. Organized in a similar style, the **Subject Files** are topical files that cover many parts of DeKalb County history. The contents and size of the files vary, but they might include newspaper clippings, booklets, reports, and various secondary source materials. A variety of topics are covered in the Subject Files, such as architecture, business and industry, cities, communities and neighborhoods, education, government, organizations, religion, and transportation.

The **Special Collections** of the DHC Archives are made up of groups of records donated by individuals, families, organizations, businesses and others. They contain a large variety of materials ranging from personal papers to

the DHC Archives (cont.)

government records. The collections also document a wide array of areas in DeKalb County history. For example, we have a collection from Scottdale Mills that includes numerous ledgers containing data from a large time span of the company's existence. We also have local garden club collections that preserve the history of the clubs through scrapbooks, minutes and other documents. Some of the garden club collections include those from the Briarcliff Woods Garden Club and the Parkwood Garden Club. Many individuals and families have donated their collections that might focus on family history or might cover a variety of topics in local history. The Special Collections contain a multitude of unique materials and encompass various cross-sections of DeKalb County history.

Our **Special Reference Materials and Periodicals** contain a large variety of resources and can be useful in assisting with a wealth of research topics. One often used resource is our set of Atlanta and Suburban City Directories, which give more information than the average phone book since residents' occupations were listed alongside their addresses. Our set includes volumes as early as 1887, all the way through 1991, although there are some gaps. Another popular resource in our Special Reference Materials and Periodicals is the Yearbook Collection. It includes yearbooks from primary, secondary, and undergraduate schools that are or were located in DeKalb County. While all schools and years are not covered, this is a very useful resource that we are continually adding to with new donations. Periodicals make up a large part of this collection category as we have issues of various DeKalb County newspapers in the Archives. We have a significant run of DeKalb New Era (which changed names and merged several times during its existence) issues in bound volume form. Lastly, our library, which researchers may browse on their own, focuses on books pertaining to DeKalb County, and covers subjects such as history, churches, education, local cities and communities and family histories.

The DeKalb History Center Archives has a wide range of rich and unique resources that continue to grow through the generosity of donors. If you are interested in scheduling a research appointment, donating materials, or have general questions about the DHC Archives, please contact our Archivist, Nicole Carmolingo, at **404-373-1088, ext. 23** or **carmolingo@dekalbhistory.org**. ✦

Membership donations are important to our mission. If you have questions about your membership, please email Melissa at forgey@dekalbhistory.org.

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Collecting, Preserving and Sharing the History of DeKalb County

All funds received through memberships directly support the preservation of DeKalb County history and are tax-deductible as allowed by law. Your generous contribution to the DeKalb History Center will provide you with a year-long membership that includes our quarterly newsletter to keep you informed on all our activities. We hope that you will join our team by either renewing your membership or joining as a first-time supporter.

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Please mail this form with your contribution to: DeKalb History Center, 101 East Court Square, Decatur GA 30030

DeKalb History Center

Old Courthouse on the Square
101 East Court Square
Decatur GA 30030

Phone: 404-373-1088
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www.dekalbhistory.org

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