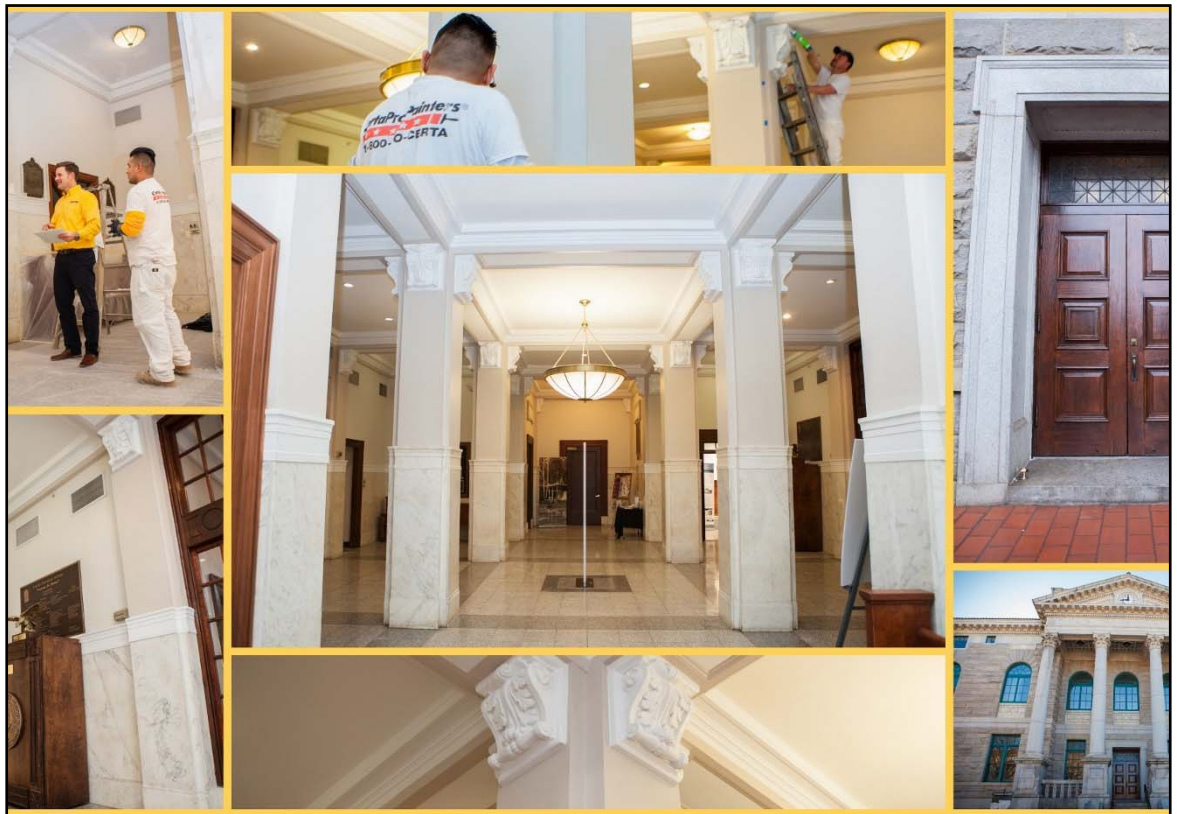


# Courthouse Maintenance

By Mallory Donaldson

Did you know that the Historic DeKalb Courthouse hosts, on average, 200 events a year? And that is not including our public programs or the weekly Rotary Luncheons in the Courtroom. Every Saturday is booked until November 2019. With multiple events each week, it seems as if we have something scheduled every day of the year. This old building really works hard!

*Continued on page 4*



## Intern Insights

By Samantha Mooney

My name is Samantha Mooney and I am a rising senior at Agnes Scott College majoring in History and Political Science. I am currently the Summer Archival Intern at the DeKalb History Center. My primary focus has been on learning archival management and gaining work experience at a small museum. I also create online content for the DeKalb History Center's blog which was created in 2016. The blog was founded with the intention of being an open resource to disseminate and discuss history widely with all interested

*Continued on page 6*

---

### Inside this issue

- [Upcoming Events](#), page 2
  - [History Quest](#), page 3
  - [Member News](#), page 7
-

**Executive Committee**

President: Jacqui Steele  
President Elect: John Hewitt  
Treasurer: Joe Stoner  
Past President: Meg Samuels  
Secretary: Tiffany Parks  
At Large: Lyle Davis  
Angela Turk

**Board of Directors**

Stephanie Cherry-Farmer  
Shelia W. Harkleroad  
John Holley  
Sam McRae  
Pete Pfeiffer  
Mindy Pillow  
Mike Pratt  
Ronald B. Ramsey, Sr.  
Rick Setser  
Keri Stevens  
Susan C. Tarnower

**Trustees**

Mary K. Jarboe  
Liane Levetan  
Lyn Menne  
Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr.  
Judy B. Turner  
Betty E. Willis

**Staff**

Executive Director  
Melissa Forgey  
Archival & Volunteer Assistant  
Jennifer Blomqvist  
Rental & Preservation Coordinator  
Mallory Donaldson  
Communications Coordinator  
Jasmine Enadeghe Carter  
Programs & Membership Coordinator  
Marissa Howard  
Archivist & Collections Manager  
Fred Mobley  
Building Manager  
Larry Serra

# Upcoming Events

## ***Flat Rock Exhibit Announcement Reception*** **with guest of honor Patsy Moon** **Friday August 24, 7 - 8:30 pm** **Historic DeKalb Courthouse - Lobby** **Free & Open to the Public**

In December of 2006 the Flat Rock Archives officially opened to the public. It is located in the ancestral home donated by the late Rev. T.A. Bryant and built by his father in 1917. The archives preserves the collections and tells the history of the Flat Rock Community. Johnny Waits is president of the archives and a descendant of one of DeKalb County's oldest families. He guides visitors through the compelling history of one of DeKalb County's oldest African American communities.

The DeKalb History Center is pleased to announce the opening of an exhibit dedicated to the rich history of the African American community of Flat Rock slated for opening in February of 2019. We will be hosting a reception with guest of honor Patsy Moon, a nearly 100 year old Flat Rock resident who swore to never set foot into the DeKalb Courthouse. When she was informed about the Flat Rock exhibit she has made it her mission to see it materialized.

## **DHC Exhibits Open During the**

### **AJC Decatur Book Festival**

**Saturday, September 1, 10:00 am - 6:00 pm**

**Sunday, September 2, noon - 6:00 pm**

**Historic DeKalb Courthouse - Lobby**

**Free & Open to the Public**

*Reclaimed by Nature: the Historic Davidson Quarries of Arabia Mountain*

*Decorative Arts from the Permanent Collection*

*Tears and Curses: A Human Focus on the Civil War*

*The Mid-Century Ranch House: Hip and Historic*

## **Exclusive Member Events**

The DeKalb History Center's invites our members for an evening of fellowship with like-minded individuals.

Our first Member Meetup will be held at

**Wild Heaven Brewery - August 9, 5:30 pm**

**Come out and enjoy a cold one with fellow DHC members!**

Marissa Howard for more information : 404.373.1088, x. 20

[howard@dekalbhistory.org](mailto:howard@dekalbhistory.org)

## **Fall Walking Tours**

Join us for our fall walking tour series when we take guests on a one-hour tour to marvel at our local history and interesting landmarks. More info to come!

**Tours start September 8th!**

# HISTORY QUEST

History Quest is our annual school program in the fall where students learn, meet, and engage with storytellers and historical figures.

Students rotate through ten stations over the course of a few hours. In the past students have learned how to curtsy and bow like Jane Austen with the Atlanta Baroque Dancers, were charmed by Booker T. Washington, and sat with Harriet Tubman while she spoke of her life history. We strive to provide students with a quality curriculum based program that is not only educational but fun.

This schedule comes with a cost. Admission from schools offsets some of the cost, however school budgets for field trips have decreased. We strive to keep our admission cost affordable for all schools regardless. Our mission, is to share history with our youngest citizens.

For sponsorship information contact Marissa at 404.373.1088 ext 20 or [howard@dekalbhistory.org](mailto:howard@dekalbhistory.org) ✦



2018 History Quest Sponsor



# Courthouse

*Continued from page 1*

So hard in fact, that it keeps us really busy with constant upkeep and maintenance. Whatever time we have between events is spent coordinating routine repairs, planning preservation projects, and overseeing renovations. Have you noticed all the work we've been doing? In case you missed it, here's a recap of what's been going on at the Historic DeKalb Courthouse over the past three years.

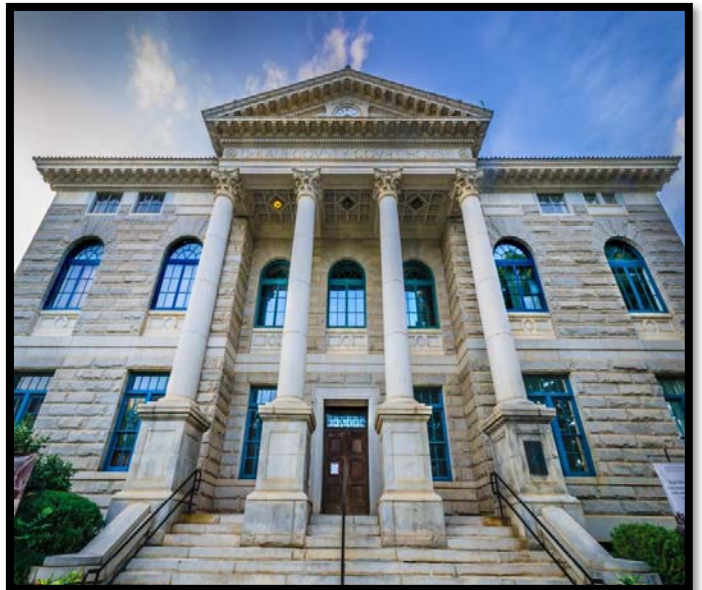
2015 was all about cleaning and updating the main event spaces. We started the year by hiring Sir Grout to thoroughly clean and repair our trademark marble walls in the Lobby and Courtroom. Service Masters also cleaned and repaired the acoustic panels on the Courtroom ceiling. While they were working on the ceiling, we had them replace all the broken sprinkler heads. CertaPro Painters of Atlanta also spent an entire week repairing the damaged plaster walls in the Harrison Room before repainting them. After a series of unexplained leaks, M Cary & Daughters removed three out-of-service toilets and repaired or replaced the remaining functional ones.

After spending a year focused on the interior of the Courthouse, 2016 was the year to clean up our exterior. First, ArborGuard pruned all the plants and trees away from the building so that CertaPro could repair and paint all the exterior windows and doors. Decatur Pressure Washing then came in to thoroughly clean the exterior of the Courthouse and surrounding walkways. Atlanta's Best Gutter Cleaners came in last to repair and clean the roof and gutters.

Meanwhile, on the interior of the building, DeKalb County hired Mann Mechanical to install a much-needed new HVAC system in the Courtroom. Several smaller Courtroom projects were also completed by

Clockwork Home Services, including rebuilding an exterior window for spot cooler ventilation, refinishing the Conference Room table, replacing several door panels, removing kick plates, installing door stops, replacing broken restroom dispensers, adding a new urinal partition, hanging a projector screen in the Courtroom, and installing safety treads on the stairs.

CertaPro was back in early 2017 to start the first of three interior projects. The first phase included removing all the wallpaper in the restrooms and painting the walls. They also put a fresh coat of paint on the walls in the Conference Room. The second phase, completed earlier this year, included painting the lobby, main staircase, and ice machine room as well as repairing the ceiling in the Civil War Exhibit. The third phase, planned for August 2019, will include painting the Courtroom and the basement.



## Communication Corner

**We're on Social Media!**

**Want to stay connected to the DeKalb History Center?**

**Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram at [@dekalbhistory](#) to stay in the loop on new blog posts, events, and other important details you don't want to miss!**

# Maintenance *(cont.)*

Now that the Courthouse was starting to shine again, we decided to hire a few people to keep it manicured and safe. Plants Creative Landscapers were hired to maintain the grounds, while NT Security installed cameras in the basement and lobby. They also helped us secure the Bridal Suite during events by installing a keypad lock on the door.

So far, 2018 has proved to be another busy year. First, we had to replace the double convection oven in the kitchen and just recently we hired Ice Machine Specialists to replace the 25-year-old ice machine. We have also upgraded our internet service to Comcast Business Class, had the Harrison Room blinds refinished by DeVenco Blinds, and had the windows cleaned by Fish Window Cleaners. While we don't have any other major projects planned until 2019, we are sure this old building will keep us busy! ✦



*Newly painted lobby of the Historic DeKalb Courthouse.*



*CertaPro team member painting columns in the lobby.*



*CertaPro crew working in the lobby at the Courthouse.*

# Intern Insights (cont.)

*Continued from page 1*

members of the public; additionally, we seek to include all stakeholders in DeKalb County history.

I am the most recent Scottie to work on the blog: Elizabeth Stokes O'Shields created the site and Erin Biggs, Sophia Malikyar, and myself have carried on legacy, each adding to it in our own way. This has been rewarding, allowing me to pursue my interests while collaborating with the archivist, Fred Mobley. I've also worked to revamp the appearance of the blog so it is engaging and user-friendly. I've tried to expand the scope of the blog by writing more in-depth research pieces and giving a behind the scenes look at our museum collections. In conducting archival research, I've unearthed some fascinating tales: the courting habits of DeKalb residents in the early years, the discriminatory history of Saturday School, the 'mysterious' Mrs. Gray and the work of local artist Clark Ashton.

Through interviewing Ashton, I stumbled onto a new area of growth for the DHC: collecting oral and cultural history. I have begun to orient the blog towards cultural history: places, music, and art. Currently, I have conducted five interviews about a wide range of topics including segregation, desegregation, woman's rights, and the Vietnam War. This allows the history center to better preserve the history of DeKalb County and to reach out to diverse sections of the public. As I conduct interviews, I am often amazed at the history that people relay.

Oral history can humanize history that seems distant and unfamiliar. There is not one singular experience of the past. Oral history can capture untold stories, which refract different perspectives. It is especially critical in creating inclusive history because it allows people who have been excluded from conventional history (i.e., documentary resources) to have a voice. Oral history gives a more complete view of the past; it can reveal an individual's experience, and help future historians to avoid overlooking variables and generalizations in the historical record. These new oral histories augment other resources currently held by the DeKalb History Center.

This is why, starting in the fall, the DeKalb History Center will be expanding its collection of oral histories and seeking to document DeKalb's cultural history. As a Fall Intern, I will help jumpstart the program. The DeKalb History Center looks forward to partnering with the community to share history. We want to preserve DeKalb's oral history so if you would like to be interviewed or have any suggestions please contact our archivist Fred Mobley at [mobley@dekalbhistory.org](mailto:mobley@dekalbhistory.org). ✦



*Sam interviewing Ms. Patricia Emerson, 84, about her life.*



*2018 History Quest Sponsor*



“ WE NEED SOME NEWER HISTORY ”

# Member Corner

Your DeKalb History Center membership is going further than ever before and we are excited to announce **NEW** benefits and opportunities for all members!

Beginning August 1st, the DeKalb History Center is joining the North American Reciprocal Museum (NARM) -- one of the largest museum membership programs in the world with members in the United States, Bermuda, Canada, El Salvador, and Mexico!

Members at the Sustainer Level or above (\$125+) will receive discounts and benefits to over 1,000 cultural, arts, and historical institutions along with botanical gardens, children's museums, zoo's, technology and science centers and more.

To see what museums and institutions are on the list, please visit [narmassociation.org](http://narmassociation.org)  
Contact Marissa for membership details  
404.373.1088 ext. 20 [howard@dekalbhistory.org](mailto:howard@dekalbhistory.org)

**SWAPTEMBER IS UPON US** — All September long your membership will give you access to discounts for Atlanta's top attractions including the Botanical Gardens, Children's Museum and the Zoo Atlanta. ✦

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

We would like to honor members who have been with the DHC for 50+ years. It is because of your support that we are able to collect, preserve, and share the rich history of DeKalb county.

*Patricia Robertson*

**Member since 1968**

*Jenny McCurdy*

**Member since 1968**

*Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Ramsey*

**Members since 1969**

***Thank You for your Continued Support***

*Membership donations are important to our mission. If you have questions about your membership please email Marissa at [howard@dekalbhistory.org](mailto:howard@dekalbhistory.org).*

## Join \* Renew \* Give

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.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Supporter Levels

- |                           |                              |                                 |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ___ Guardian—\$2,500      | ___ Contributor—\$250        | ___ Household—\$50              |
| ___ Historian—\$1,000     | ___ Sustainer/Business—\$125 | ___ Individual—\$30             |
| ___ Preservationist—\$500 | ___ Patron—\$75              | ___ Student/Teacher/Senior—\$25 |

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

**DeKalb History Center**

Historic DeKalb Courthouse  
101 East Court Square  
Decatur GA 30030

Phone: 404-373-1088  
Fax: 404-373-8287  
www.dekalbhistory.org



**DEKALB  
HISTORY  
CENTER**

**Business Supporters**

**Historian**

**A.S. Turner & Sons, Inc.**

**Brick Store Pub**

**City of Decatur**

**Decatur Downtown Development Authority**

**DeKalb Convention & Visitors Bureau**

**Endive Fine Catering**

**Fox Bros Bar-B-Q**

**McCurdy & Candler, LLC**

**Preservationist**

**Arlene Dean Homes**

**Avenue Catering**

**Avalon Catering**

**Bold American Food Co.**

**Epps Aviation**

**Farm Burger**

**Gotta Have It Catering**

**Low Country Catering**

**Oakhurst Market**

**Organization of**

**DeKalb Educators**

**Private Bank of Decatur**

**Soiree Catering & Events**

**Sun in My Belly**

**Contributor**

**ACE III Communications**

**Cousins Foundation**

**Edward Jones**

**Emory University**

**Pam Hughes/Harry Norman Realtors**

**Jackson Spalding**

**New South Associates, Inc.**

**Law Office of Mindy Pillow**

**Private Bank of Decatur**

**Small Business Services**

**Steele Program Managers**

**Law Office of A. Thomas Stubbs**

*These business members support the History Center at the Contributor Level or above. For information call 404-373-1088, ext. 20.*