

Special Programs for Schools

On March 2, the DHC will present a two-person play, ***Struggle for Freedom: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*** This theatrical production, designed for students in grades 2 - 12, celebrates the work and life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in the context of the American Civil Rights Movement. Featuring songs from the era, this production offers students the opportunity to experience the heroic work of Dr. King and Rosa Parks. Actors portray the March on Washington and many more of the key moments that shaped both the Civil Rights Movement and our country. The cost is \$11 per student and there is a discount for Title I schools.



Susan B. Anthony converses with students during the Third Grade History Day program last fall. To learn about upcoming programs please see the accompanying article or check our website.

In the fall of 2015 the DHC offered a **Second Grade History Day** and on March 22, 2016 we will have **part 2** of that event. Living history presentations will feature Jackie Robinson, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and President Jimmy Carter. Students learn about struggle and sacrifice from these men who worked for civil and human rights. These powerful leaders help students understand that one person can make a difference. The cost is \$11 per student and there is a discount for Title I schools.

One of our most compelling school programs, **Third Grade History Day, part 2** (March 23 and 25) is entertaining, educational and full of inspiration. Students encounter Eleanor Roosevelt, whose work and life shaped our society, Thurgood Marshall, America's first African American Supreme Court justice,

Continued on page 2

Invitation to a Picnic

History Found, History Shared

Through the generous donation of Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., the DeKalb History Center has received an historic letter giving insight into the cultural history of Decatur and DeKalb County Georgia in 1859. With previous historic knowledge at hand, the reader can expand his or her insight into the recreational opportunities available to locals 157 years ago. This is just one addition to the DHC's archival collection from 2015 which is accessible to patrons in the reading room.

The original letter is written in brown ink on unlined paper and was folded. It reads as follows:

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Upcoming Events

DeKalb History Center Symposium

Roots of Friendship:

African Americans and Jews in Atlanta, 1900 - 1950

Saturday, March 5, 10:00 am to 1:30 pm - Historic DeKalb Courthouse

Advance Tickets: \$35/\$45 (discount for members of DHC)

Call 404-373-1088, ext. 20 or email goldemund@dekalbhistory.org for more information.

Roots of Friendship is a history symposium featuring author **Melissa Fay Greene** and other scholars who will explore the unique relationships that formed between the African American and Jewish communities in Atlanta during the first half of the twentieth century. Topics include the immigration of European Jews to Atlanta, the Leo Frank case, Jewish and African American experiences after World War II, the interdependence, empathy and understanding among these communities, and more. Registration includes a buffet lunch.

Our moderators are **Dr. Charissa Threat** (Spelman College) and **Dr. Jelani Favors** (Clayton State University). Other speakers and panelists include: **Ms. Sandy Berman**, **Ms. Danielle Wiggins**, **Mr. David Goldwasser**, and **Mr. Hershel Greenblat**.

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Annual Meeting & Silent Auction

Join us for our Annual Meeting and Silent Auction on **Friday, March 18, from 6:00—8:30 pm** at the Historic DeKalb Courthouse. Enjoy an evening of wine, beer, hors d'oeuvres and music while bidding on fantastic items donated by generous local businesses. We are currently seeking Silent Auction donations; contact Fred at mogley@dekalbhistory.org or 404-373-1088, ext. 23, if you would like to donate.

We will have bid numbers for our guests this year to simplify bidding and check-out. *To register in advance, please email Melissa at forgey@dekalbhistory.org or call at 404-373-1088 ext. 22.* †

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School Programs (cont.)

Continued from page 1

Lyndon Baines Johnson, the 36th U.S. president, and Cesar Chavez, founder of United Farm Workers. Our professional actors bring these historic figures to life and interact with students to make this program lively and engaging. The cost is \$11 per student and there is a discount for Title I schools. Call 404-373-1088, extension 20 or email goldemund@dekalbhistory.org for more information. †

Invitation to a Picnic (cont.)

Continued from page 1

Decatur April 16, 1859.

My Dear friend Charlie:

Several of the ladies and gentlemen of Decatur and Penfield etc. are going on a "Pic nic" to the Stone Mountain the 23rd of this month. Being one of the committee of invitation, I write you a hurried note, begging that you will meet our party at the Stone Mountain depot on the morning of the 23rd. We expect to go down on the 6 o'clock train. Tell Mrs. Maddox [that], Mrs. Chivers, widow of the late Dr. Chivers of this place, and a northerner by birth, will form one of the party; and it may be that sister will go if she is here at that time, so I insist upon her meeting us at the depot too, and ascending the mountain with us. Give my love to all. Hoping to meet you and Mrs. Maddox at the mountain, I remain

Yours very truly,

Missouria H. Stokes

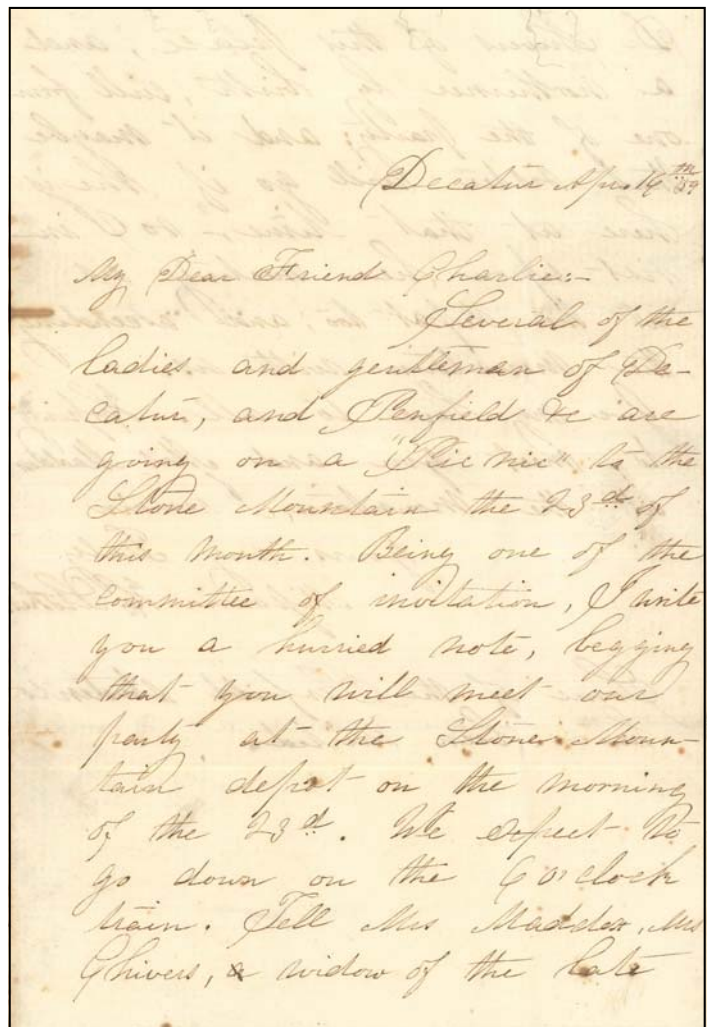
Some of the Penfield students have been invited.

Though we now live in a frenetic world filled with on-demand digital communication, we still gather with friends for social activities. We meet up in groups to climb Stone Mountain, albeit with a quicker travel time to the destination. And 150 years later, our varied array of activities to do before and after visiting the mountain would likely boggle the minds of Missouria Stokes, her sister Mary Ann Harris Gay, and their invited guests.

The fact remains that at its root, the letter covers social activities we continue to do today. Ms. Stokes' letter gives a glimpse of the activities of 19th century DeKalb County residents, but it raises more questions than it answers.

Maybe you are curious and want to know more about Missouria Stokes and Mary Ann Harris Gay? Did the widow of Georgia's lost poet, Thomas Holley Chivers, stop by his grave in their yard to visit, as his will requested, before crossing over to the train depot? Are you interested in learning more about transportation, houses, social norms, business organizations, or the roads in DeKalb County in 1857? Or perhaps the unique history of Stone Mountain

might trigger your curiosity? The reading room is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays by appointment from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm and offers patrons a chance to do research and review materials from the archives. There are maps, images, and reference books there on these topics available for review and study. We here at the DeKalb History Center invite you to come experience history found, history shared! ✦



The front of "Missouria" Stokes' letter—the ink bleeds through on both sides.

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