

## The Johns Homestead

Improvements are underway at the Johns Homestead, a 50-acre DeKalb County park in Tucker, with the formation of a "Friends" group and the beginning of the master planning process. The park includes the old Johns family homesite with an antebellum house and several outbuildings. The home was occupied by members of the Johns family until the 1980s. The park also has two manmade lakes, which will eventually be opened for fishing with walking trails around their perimeters.

On Saturday, November 17, there will be a "Give-An-Hour" workday at Johns Homestead Nature Preserve Park to help revitalize the home and surrounding property. They are looking for volunteers from 9:00 – noon. This clean-up is a joint venture between Friends of Johns Homestead, DeKalb County Government,

Tucker Civic Association, and the Tucker Historical Society. It will be the first of many workdays to help restore the 50-acre nature preserve area and the homestead itself. Please bring your hammers,



*Two views of the main house in 2010.*



work gloves, and pry bars to work on the house and your shovels, rakes, and hedge shears for landscaping. Please wear closed-toed shoes, a long-sleeve shirt, and pants. Bottled water and light snacks will be provided.

Email [parks@tuckercivic.org](mailto:parks@tuckercivic.org) if you have any questions. You can join the Facebook group at [www.facebook.com/johnshomestead](http://www.facebook.com/johnshomestead). ✦

## Heritage Festival a Success

Our annual Heritage Festival for fifth-graders was a huge success with almost 300 students attending. Many thanks to **A. S. Turner and Sons** for sponsoring the festival! Decatur fifth graders learned about the Civil War and previewed our country's transition into the Industrial Revolution. This year we had new presenters, including a blacksmith, and our spinner's presentation was enhanced by live sheep.

Reuben Haller brought music and storytelling as a rustic from the mountains who marveled at the wonders in Atlanta. He demonstrated folk instruments, including the spoons, and sent each class back to school with a kit to make their own spoon instruments. Josie Bailey performed her story *Dawn to Dusk*, in which she portrays Celia Mable, who was a slave on the Robert Mable Plantation west of Atlanta.

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## The Bates Jug

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If there is one personality characteristic that is never in short supply around the office of a history center, it is curiosity. One person will wonder aloud about some local mystery, and before long we are tracking down leads on the internet, studying old maps and microfilm, and visiting cemeteries in a quest for information.

A search of this sort was recently sparked by an artifact on display in our main office. It is a striking Albany Slipware jug inscribed *Return to E.E. Bates, Decatur, Georgia*. The jug inspired the question, "Who was E.E. Bates?" The connections made from this jug are astonishing and become part of its record for future display or research purposes.

This "scratch" jug (so named because the owner's information was etched in the wet glaze with a pointed tool prior to firing) was discovered in Atlanta's Maddox Park by attorney Hopkins Kidd in 1977. Mr. Kidd donated his find to our collection. As precursors to the "return for deposit" bottles of later generations, these jugs also provided advertising. They were quickly made, utilitarian vessels, as evidenced by the nicks in the footing and fingerprints in the glaze.

Edwin Earl Bates (aka Edward), was "a prominent merchant of Decatur and well known in Atlanta." Born in Swanzey, NH, in 1843, he was a son of Jervis Bates, a "trader" and "drover." By age 17 he had begun working as a "Clerk."

In October of 1862 Bates enlisted as a Corporal with the 47<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, known as the Merchant's Guard Regiment. He was stationed for a time near Lake Ponchartrain, LA, and mustered out in August 1863. While none in his regiment died in battle, dozens died from disease.

In 1870 Bates lived in Boston, MA, possibly in a boarding house. By 1872 he had established "Edwin Bates & Co., jobbers in staple and fancy dry goods and clothing," in Charleston, SC. In Atlanta he had a store at 15 Pryor Street selling "... a good assortment of ready-made clothing, at very low prices."

About 1879, he married Lina Conn of Pennsylvania (b. 1853), and they had a son, Frederick, in 1882. Sadly, the child passed away at the age of 7 months. A few years later they had a daughter named Mary.

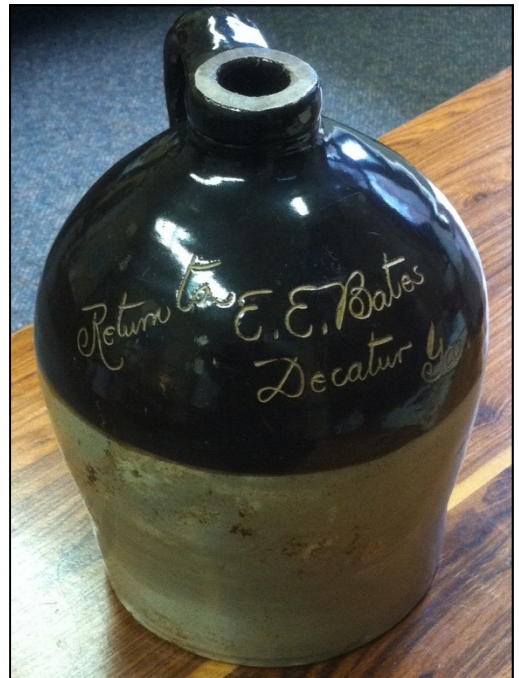
The 1883 Atlanta City Directory lists "Bates Edward E., dry goods, boots, shoes and crockery, 132 Decatur, r 439 W. Peters." It also lists "Bates,

Edwin & Co., (C.S. Kingsbery resident partner), whol [sic] clothing, 2 and 4 S. Pryor."

In 1894 E. E. Bates founded a company with his father-in-law and other associates, "The Blount Stave and Machine Company," for "...the manufacture of hogsheads, barrels, pipes, kegs and other wooden and iron receptacles for holding liquids and other substances."

In June of 1900 Bates lived with his wife, daughter, and her parents in their home on Railroad Avenue (now College Ave.). It was the sixth house south from McDonough Street. Bates died on August 25, 1900, of heart failure. According to his obituary, he was on his way to his store on Sycamore Street (about where Shields convenience store is today) when he became exhausted and stopped to rest at the Jossey Hotel (current location of Cakes and Ale), "two doors from his place of business." Ten minutes later Mr. Bates, who just shortly before had seemed "in good health, robust and hearty," was gone.

E. E. Bates was a Decatur city councilman at the time of his death. Despite the fact that he was not a native of Georgia, he was fondly described in his obituary as "... one of the most worthy and highly esteemed citizens in this section of the country, and loved by all who knew him." He and his family are buried in lots 51 and 52 in the Decatur Cemetery, just a short distance away from the covered well that is now used as a gazebo. ✦



*The jug that started it all!*



## Upcoming Events

**The following events will be at the Historic DeKalb Courthouse, 101 E. Court Square:**

### **The History of the Streetcar in Atlanta and DeKalb County, Lunch & Learn with Patrick Sullivan**

Patrick Sullivan will present a talk on the establishment, growth, and decline of streetcars and inter-urban commuter lines in the Atlanta area with a special focus on the development of the transportation network in DeKalb County, from Emory University to Stone Mountain and many points in between. The history of the streetcar during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries is as large and as colorful as history gets. Expansive, fast (for their time), noisy, and romantic, they were much loved by urban Georgians and other city residents throughout the country. Businesses, neighborhoods, recreational sites, and schools were tied into the new transportation system that provided movement to places people wanted or needed to go. Social relations changed as they brought white and black riders into close contact within the Jim Crow South. While the trackless trolley and personal automobile would bring an end to their use, funeral parties held in many cities honoring "last trolley rides" testified to their strong hold on the traveling public.

Patrick Sullivan is a historian and architectural historian with New South Associates in Stone Mountain, Georgia. He received his M.A. in Heritage Preservation from Georgia State University in 2007. Over the course of his seven-year career at New South Associates, Mr. Sullivan has worked on a number of architectural and historic resource surveys throughout the eastern United States for clients that include the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the General Services Administration, the Georgia Department of Transportation, and the National Park Service among others. In 2011 the Georgia Department of Transportation hired New South Associates to develop a context for resources associated with Georgia's historic streetcar systems, with an emphasis on the metro Atlanta area.



**Tuesday, November 13, Noon to 1:00 p.m.** NOTE DATE CHANGE, due to holidays

### ***A Night at the Museum***

Drop off your children (ages 7–12) for a night of craft, entertainment, and holiday treats! This event gives parents an opportunity to enjoy food and shopping in downtown Decatur on a "Terrific Thursday!" \$5 per child for DHC members, \$10 for nonmembers. For more information or to register email Leslie at [borger@dekalbhistory.org](mailto:borger@dekalbhistory.org) or call 404-373-1088 extension 20.

**December 20th, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.**

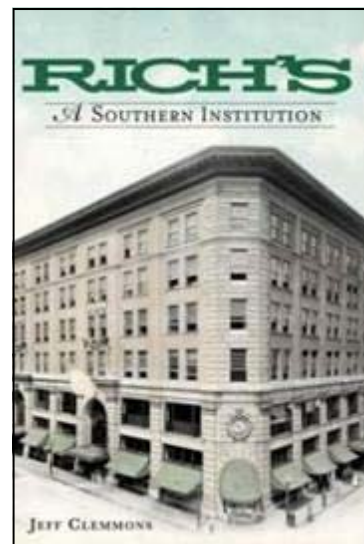
### ***Rich's: A Southern Institution* with author Jeff Clemmons**

Jeff Clemmons, author of the new book, *Rich's: A Southern Institution*, will join the DeKalb History Center for a special lecture and book signing on Tuesday, December 4. Clemmons will trace Rich's 137-year history, including the true stories behind Penelope Penn, Fashionata, The Great Tree, the Pink Pig, Rich's famous coconut cake, and much more, including how events at the downtown Atlanta store helped John F. Kennedy become America's thirty-fifth president. **Afterward, be sure to purchase a signed copy of the book!**

In 1867, less than three years after the Civil War left the city in ruins, Hungarian Jewish immigrant Morris Rich opened a small dry goods store on what is now Peachtree Street in downtown Atlanta. Over time his brothers Emanuel and Daniel joined the business; within a century, it became a retailing dynasty.

Although born in Alabama, Jeff Clemmons considers himself an Atlantan, having lived in the metropolitan area for the past twenty-six years. His family has an even older connection to the city, with his great-great-grandfather Archibald Clemmons fighting in the Atlanta Campaign, including the Battle of Atlanta, during the American Civil War.

**Tuesday, December 4th, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.** ✦





## Heritage Festival (cont. from page 1)



*Clockwise from top left: Josie Bailey performing "Dawn to Dusk" in the Biffle Cabin; Rueben Haller with music and storytelling in the Barber Cabin; local blacksmith Jason Smith explaining his craft; a student with one of the three sheep; and students walking between the buildings. ✦*



# Preserving Historic Cemeteries

The City of Decatur recently hosted the Georgia Municipal Cemetery Association's annual conference at the Courtyard by Marriott in downtown Decatur. With over 100 people in attendance, the event was a great success and participants came from all over the state and even a few surrounding states. The agenda included various experts, from arborists and landscape architects to archaeologists and nonprofit leaders, who discussed all aspects of cemetery management. Conference attendees also had the opportunity to tour some of the area's most beautiful and historic cemeteries and attended a welcome reception at the Decatur Cemetery.

Next year's conference will take place in Thomasville, Georgia, and you can visit its website at [www.gmcaweb.org](http://www.gmcaweb.org) if you are interested in attending!

## Cemetery Photos Wanted

Do you have any photos of Decatur Cemetery that you would care to share with the Friends of Decatur Cemetery? They are particularly interested in historic photos that show how the cemetery has changed over the years. Mother Nature and Father Time are a cemetery's worst enemies. Drought, storms, and ice all contribute to changes in the landscape. Family photographic remembrances are one way we can record these changes and help to tell the story of Decatur.

If you would be willing to share, email [friendsofdecaturcemetery@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofdecaturcemetery@gmail.com) or call Joy Knight in the Cemetery Office at 404-378-4411. You are also welcome to share them with the DeKalb History Center! Our archives are a great repository and will ensure that your photos or family papers are protected for researchers for years to come. Contact our archivist, Jill Sweetapple, at [sweetapple@dekalbhistory.org](mailto:sweetapple@dekalbhistory.org) or 404-373-1088, extension 23.

See the two comparison photos on the right and consider the wealth of information contained in the historic image. ✦



*The monument in the middle of this photograph marks the plot where Thomas Holley Chivers and other family members are buried in the Decatur Cemetery. It is an albumen print and dates to about 1890—1895. The decorative urn, which sat atop the monument, is long gone. You also see a rare glimpse of African American housing in Decatur during this time. (Photo Courtesy of DeKalb History Center Archives).*



*The Chivers's monument as it appears today. The red cedar in the foreground seems to be the original planting. Cedars are often found in cemeteries and symbolize death. Cedars are also mentioned many times in the Bible, which may have made them a popular choice for cemeteries. The building in the background is used by DeKalb Medical; and if you are familiar with Decatur, you can imagine the Kroger behind the trees. From this angle you are looking at present-day Commerce Drive.*

## We have upgraded our Membership Benefits; please consider upgrading your membership!

### DeKalb History Center Membership – all members receive these benefits:

The opportunity to make a difference in the community and to help preserve DeKalb County's history!  
A mailed subscription to our quarterly newsletter, *Times of DeKalb*, and inclusion in our annual membership list.  
Notification about our fantastic events and programs, including Lunch and Learn lectures, member orientation, children's programs, and our Annual Black History Month celebration. *Some events are open only to members.*  
Free or discounted admission to ticketed events.  
10% discount on merchandise and publications.  
Opportunities to meet people with similar interests.  
Benefits are available for a year and start at the date you join or renew.  
*The retail price of your tangible benefits will be deducted from your contribution unless you waive the tangible benefits. You must let us know if you want a book or an ad when you pay for your membership.*  
**Additional benefits begin at the Household level.**  
Our full-color quarterly newsletter has a circulation of about 700 and we average over 3,500 website visits per month at [www.dekalbhistory.org](http://www.dekalbhistory.org).

### Household (\$50)

Two tickets to Log Cabin Storytelling\* **or** a royal blue "DHC" tote bag+.

### Patron (\$75)

Two tickets to Log Cabin Storytelling\* **and** a royal blue "DHC" tote bag+.

### Sustainer (\$125)

Two tickets to Log Cabin Storytelling\*, a royal blue "DHC" tote bag+ **and** a copy of *Historic DeKalb County*+ (\$50 value).

### Contributor (\$250)

Sustainer benefits plus:  
Recognition of your business in *Times of DeKalb* newsletter and on our Sponsors' page on our website.  
A copy of *Historic DeKalb County*+ (\$50 value).  
Plus 25% discount on **one weekday evening** rental at the Old Courthouse (Monday – Thursday, subject to availability).

### Benefactor (\$500)

Sustainer benefits plus:  
Recognition of your business in *Times of DeKalb* newsletter and on our Sponsors' page on our website.  
One ad\* per year in *Times of DeKalb*, business card size, must be ready to print (\$75 value).  
A copy of *Historic DeKalb County*+ (\$50 value).  
Plus 25% discount on **two weekday evening** rentals at the Old Courthouse (Monday – Thursday, subject to availability).

### Sponsor (\$1,000)

Sustainer benefits plus:  
Recognition of your business in *Times of DeKalb* newsletter and on our Sponsors' page on our website.  
One ad\* per year in *Times of DeKalb*, business card size, must be ready to print (\$75 value).  
A copy of *Historic DeKalb County*+ (\$50 value).  
Plus 25% discount on **three weekday evening** rentals at the Old Courthouse (Monday – Thursday, subject to availability).

### Heritage Society (\$2,500)

Sustainer benefits plus:  
Recognition of your business in *Times of DeKalb* newsletter and on our Sponsors' page on our website.  
One ad\* per year in *Times of DeKalb*, business card size, must be ready to print (\$75 value).  
A copy of *Historic DeKalb County*+ (\$50 value).  
Hyperlink to your website from our sponsor page.  
Plus 25% discount on **one weekend rental** at the Old Courthouse (Friday – Sunday, subject to availability).

\* You must **request** this during your membership year.

+ Cannot be mailed. ✦

## Your Membership Counts!

Your membership donation helps us to thrive and grow. Now entering our 66th year as an organization, the DeKalb History Center has changed many times. This year we are offering new membership benefits, which you can review on the left. But the most important benefit is that **you** can help us to save and tell the stories that make this county great!

We believe that our history is a local treasure. The stories of our past help explain our present and give clues about our tomorrow.

You can join the DeKalb History Center at any time. We currently send membership renewals to existing members on a quarterly basis. So, for example, if you joined in December of 2011, you will receive a renewal notice from us soon!

We also send appeals to people and businesses who are not current members. While we are a *private* organization, we are not exclusive! The *private* distinction simply means that we are not part of the state or local government. You are welcome to join us and support our efforts at any giving level regardless of where you live.

We do not get to ask for your membership continually like a pledge drive on the radio or TV, but we need your support every bit as much.

Once you join, you will receive other requests from us to make donations. But your membership contribution is that first commitment we ask of you, and your renewals are equally important. Keeping your membership current ensures that you receive our newsletter and other mailings.

We send out an appeal near the end of the year—a time when donors may seek to make additional charitable contributions. And some of our invitations include an opportunity to send in a donation if you cannot attend the event.

We need your support! If you ever have questions about your membership, please contact us. We can change your address, add you to our email list, or check your last donation.

And don't forget—we are also venturing into social media! We are on Facebook and Twitter (DeKalb History Center and @DeKalbHistory). We use these platforms to remind you of upcoming events, to inform you about history related news, and to share images from our collections.

We are grateful for the community support that our members have given us for 66 years—please help us continue our journey into the future! Renew or join today. And remember, DHC memberships also make great gifts! ✦

### Join \* Renew \* Give

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 of 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

____ Heritage Society—\$2,500	____ Contributor—\$250	____ Household—\$50
____ Sponsor—\$1,000	____ Sustainer/Business—\$125	____ Individual—\$30
____ Benefactor/Corporation—\$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



# **Business Supporters**

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*These business members support the History Center at the Contributor Level or above. For information call 404-373-1088, ext. 22.*

## **DeKalb History Center**

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

Phone: 404-373-1088  
Fax: 404-373-8287  
[www.dekalbhistory.org](http://www.dekalbhistory.org)

*Keeping DeKalb's History  
First, since 1947*

